FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 042 *2 March 1983*

ARGENTINA

President Bignone Addresses Nation 28 February B 1
Political Leaders Respond B 5
News on Nonaligned Summit Termed 'Blatant Lie' B 6
Bignone Sees No Possibility for Peron Pardon B 7
Briefs: Rosario Mayor Resigns; B 7
Taxation Agreement With Italy;
Syrian Purchase Request

BOLIVIA

Foreign Minister Discusses Cartagena Declaration C 1
Defense Minister on Debt Accord With Argentina C 2
Labor Unrest, Stoppages, Strikes Increase C 2

BRAZIL

Figueiredo Speaks on Economy 28 February D 1
Figueiredo Names Viacava New Cacex Director D 4
Daily Scores Government's Maxidevaluation D 4
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 28 Feb]
Talks With Poland on Debt Reach Impasse D 6
[O GLOBO 24 Feb]

COLOMBIA

Lloreda Caicedo Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting F 1
Discusses Current Issues [EL SIGLO 21 Feb] F 1
State Institutions Analyze Amnesty Law Results F 3
[EL ESPECTADOR 16 Feb]
Military Mounts Operation to Counter FARC F 4
[EL SIGLO 19 Feb]

PARAGUAY

Nogues, Acevedo Visit Brazil 28 February H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 28 Feb]
Police Release Veron After 6-Month Arrest H 1
[ABC COLOR 19 Feb]
Parana River Level Hits New Record High [HOY 28 Feb] H 1

PERU

Belaunde Urges Subversives To Lay Down Arms J 1
Extends, Expands State of Emergency J 1
'FBT' Scored for Irresponsible Statements J 1
[EL OBSERVADOR 13 Feb]
APRA's Garcia Decries Schwalb Policy Speech J 3
[EL OBSERVADOR 17 Feb]
Deputy Governor Sought in Journalists' Murder J 4

VENEZUELA

Herrera Campins' Address on Economic Measures L 1
President on Easing Travel to Netherlands Antilles L 3

MEXICO

Oil Price, Production Quotas Reportedly Favored M 1
Salinas Explains Government's Economic Position M 1
De la Madrid Sends Letter to Costa Rica's Monge M 1
Sepulveda Amor Signs Agreement With Nicaragua M 1
Exports to Israel Expected To Increase M 2
Briefs: Oil Export Facilities; Presidential Appointments; M 2
Seven Generals To Retire

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brazil P 1
Rogers To Head Delegation to Nonaligned Summit P 1

EL SALVADOR

Peasants Rally in Support of Agrarian Decree 207 P 1
President Magana Swears In Peace Commission P 2
Commander Blandon Reports on Guazapa Operation P 3
Editorial Sees Lack of Determination To End War P 5
[EL SALVADOR PROCESO 14-20 Feb]
Pope Names Arturo Rivera Y Damas Archbishop P 5
Appointment Called Reply to U.S. P 6
Rivera Y Damas Deplores U.S. Military Aid P 6
More Prisoners Planning To Join Hunger Strike P 7
Commander Gives Scope of Radio Venceremos System P 7
Lisbon's EXPRESSO Interviews FMLN Leader [19 Feb] P 11

HONDURAS

Workers' Group Charges Farm 'Militarization' P 15

NICARAGUA

Daily Denounces Enders Statements as 'Lies' P 15
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 23 Feb]
Havana on Highlights of Workers Assembly P 16

CUBA

Malmierca Comments on Nonaligned Summit Q 1
Commentary on L.A. Collective Security, U.S. Q 1
Foreign Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed Q 3
ICAP President Sends Message to 'Arafat Q 3
Rodriguez Receives Visiting Danish Newsmen Q 4
Civil Defense Reports Rain, Wind Damage Q 4
Eight Lives Lost Q 4
Exile Alleges Torture of Political Prisoners Q 5

CARIBBEAN

Regional Exporters Urged To Pool Resources S 1

BAHAMAS

Central Bank Announces External Reserves Figure S 2
[THE TRIBUNE 24 Feb]

JAMAICA

Seaga Sees Economic Harm From High Interest Rates S 3
Foreign Minister Signs Law of Sea Ratification S 3
Association Calls for New Caricom Exchange Rate S 3
[DAILY GLEANER 24 Feb]

MONTSERRAT

Elections Return John Osborne's PLM to Power S 4
New Legislature To Be Sworn In S 4

ST KITTS & NEVIS

Simmonds Blamed for Sugar Workers' Problems S 5
Premier Simmonds Looks at Term, Future Prospects S 6

ST VINCENT

Prime Minister Cato Returns to Work S 7
Signs Taiwan Aid Agreement S 7

SURINAME

Netherlands 'Hostility' To Concern Nonaligned U 1
Government Wants Relations With Netherlands U 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

PANAMA

State Department Cancels Paredes Visit V 1

URUGUAY

Police Confirm Warrant for Ferreira's Arrest V 1

PRESIDENT BIGNONE ADDRESSES NATION 28 FEBRUARY

PY010151 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0002 GMT 1 Mar 83

[President Bignone's 28 February speech to the nation from the Southern Room of Government House -- recorded]

[Text] I would like to address all the Argentine people in plain and direct language tonight. I am delivering this speech in compliance with the announcement made shortly before the end of the 1982 to the effect that the electoral timetable would be disclosed to the nation sometime in February.

The Armed Forces decided a little over 8 months ago that the country's republican institutions would be operating before March 1984. The Army adopted this political decision because of the situation prevailing then and I assumed the office of the Presidency on 1 July 1982. The ban on political party activities was automatically lifted when I was installed and the political parties, which are the instruments of democracy, and the entire nation have been engaged in intense activity ever since then.

Today we are exactly halfway along the path to the elections and the attaining of the yearned for institutionalization. We say that we are halfway from the elections because 8 months have already elapsed and there are another 8 months to go. On Sunday 30 October 1983 the country's population will decide with its vote who will be the authorities that will rule its future destiny. Some 90 days later, on 30 January 1984, complying with that commitment to which I have referred -- of the Armed Forces of the nation -- the government will be handed over to those who have been elected during the elections.

The government made a number of analyses and it reviewed a great deal of background data before setting these dates. Several steps must be taken before holding the elections, an event which we intend to have go down in history as a perfect example. I outlined all these steps to the national political leaders during the last round of political talks, which ended last Saturday. I will not outline these steps in this speech because the Interior Ministry will release a communique in this regard.

I prefer to dedicate these few minutes to expressing some views about what lies in store for us. I said awhile ago that all the steps to be taken before the elections were pointed out to the national political leaders during a dialogue, because the steps to be taken were not the only subjects discussed. All the necessary subjects were discussed. Therefore, it is my duty to acknowledge, the political leaders who attended the dialogue, on behalf of the national government, for the form and substance of the dialogue. The politicians are acknowledged for the substance of the dialogue because of the clarity, firmness and resolution with which the ideas were defended, and for the form on account of the highly respectable nature of the dialogue and for the respect shown to it.

Shortly after starting the political dialogue a few persons -- luckily only a few -- were against attending it since they believed that the dialogue's results would be useless. The government respects this viewpoint, as it respects all other viewpoints, but it does not share it. The dialogue is not measured by a predetermined advantage attained by a sector nor by the imposition of a predetermined viewpoint during the course of the dialogue. The dialogue is an exchange of ideas carried out with passion, vehemence, arguments and dignity. The dialogue also represents a give and take of information and all this can only be advantageous for the nation. This is what the government believes.

It is obvious that various situations may come up during the course of the dialogue starting with the easiest situation which is when all the interlocutors have the same viewpoint and their viewpoint, in turn, coincides with that of the government. Then we have the extreme situation in which the interlocutors' viewpoints are completely different from one another or the intermediate situation in which although the viewpoints are different they can reach an intermediate agreement.

At the end of the dialogue, in the case I mentioned when the points of view are contradictory and cannot be reconciled, some may say that they have been let down and others that they are satisfied. I, on behalf of the government, say that this dialogue has been extremely useful and productive for the government.

From now on, from this moment, from the time we make this announcement, we still have the 8 months which I mentioned ahead of us. These 8 months can be divided into two very different phases and this is what we discussed with the political party leaderships; a first, very clear phase, during which the political parties will renew or confirm their current leaders through an internal process within each party after which they will name the candidates which they will submit for the people's consideration in the 30 October elections. A second phase, which will be a process between parties, during which the parties will present their ideas and their presidential candidates.

The two processes, during the first as well as the second phase, will imply a dispute, struggle and exchange of ideas. The word dispute and struggle might sound strong but the fact is that it is an absolutely legitimate dispute, an absolutely legitimate struggle since it is a dispute, a struggle of ideas. It is a dispute and struggle aimed at offering the people those ideas and those political names which seek to govern.

But it is almost unnecessary to point out that dispute and that struggle could take different forms. Although this might seem a play on words, I would like to say here tonight that I view those different forms as two opposing extremes. One extreme takes the form of all against all and the opposite one, that of all for all. Needless to say, the first form will only contribute to exacerbating criticism of others and will consequently lead to injuries, slander and to all that is destructive.

The second form, which is the one we want, is that of all for all and will lead to a clear, logical, impassioned -- why not -- exposition of individual ideas, to the assertion by members of each faction themselves of their position within the party and to each party stating its position on the electoral dispute so that, by 30 October, the people might know all they need to know to exercise their right to vote fully aware of the significance of their act. It seems unnecessary to state that the national government will make every effort which may be necessary to have the latter form prevail, not only during the next 8 months before the elections but also throughout the entire Argentine future.

Reflecting on the election, I also want to discuss tonight two specific aspects of this election which should never occur again. They are: first, the government is not seeking to seize power, it is relinquishing it.

The government is not a party to the struggle I have described. I said this should never occur again because a government is normally backed by a political party. Therefore, not as a government but through that political party backing it, the government has the totally legitimate right to participate in the election through its instrument, that is, its party. At this time, the national government does not have and will not have a political party, it will not take sides. It will establish the rules, will lead the process, will rule but the dispute will take place among parties in order to reach the best solution wanted by the people.

The second aspect I mentioned -- and which also must not happen again -- is that this time we will elect from the president of the republic to the less important councilman or representative of the most modest town of the republic all at the same time. This will not happen again since the duration of the terms in office either at the national, provincial or municipal level vary and because the partial renewal of the various collegiate bodies of the republican system of the nation will be carried out on different dates. As a consequence, after the next government is installed the electoral sequence will be completely different to that of 30 October.

But as the three levels at stake -- the national, provincial and municipal -- have or may have their different motivations the people must be fully aware that, although this time they will elect all authorities at once, they are casting their votes on each of these levels and that each of them may have their different motivations.

In this regard the government will take all the necessary measures to assure the citizen, who definitely decides who he wants in the municipalities, in the provinces, in government, the right to cast his vote in an absolutely free and conscious act.

Moreover, we have ahead of us a third phase -- which is more brief -- which is the phase between the elections and the handing over of power. A number of procedures, which are provided for in our own national Constitution, must be carried out until the new authorities are named.

As we have already stated, the government does not advocate any changes in the Constitution unless they are requested by the political parties themselves. Regarding this subject in particular, only one political party, which attended the dialogue with the president of the nation, requested that the 1949 Constitution be enforced for these elections and as a consequence the direct election of the president and vice president of the nation be carried out. The party which made this request, during the dialogue with the president of the nation, was the Popular Leftist Front (FIP), through its President Abelardo Ramos. As a consequence the general consensus is that the System established by the Constitution be maintained. Therefore the steps established therein must be taken, beginning with the formation of the electoral college, followed by the formation of the provincial legislative assemblies, the election of senators and the formation of our Congress and ending with Congress confirming the president and vice president of the nation, as well as all the authorities at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Moreover, during the period between the elections and the assumption of the new government, there must also be an orderly transfer of power to the incoming government by the outgoing government. The outgoing government must put at the disposal of those who will rule the country all the things necessary for and contributing to the future government's success.

The president of the nation hereby promises not only the government's willingness to do this but also gives proof of it by providing all the necessary information to the government that will replace it, as well as by creating, with the future government's understanding, all the conditions necessary for making the future government's administration easier. This will be done precisely because this government wishes, above all, that the future government will be successful and that it will give us the promising future that all the Argentine people look forward to.

In the last place, I will refer to an issue I would have preferred to avoid, but I would not be honest if I did so.

We are all convinced that every institution and citizen of the country has a strong desire for the country's final institutionalization. However, we cannot disregard the fact that there might be sectors, no matter how small, that might not be looking forward to the institutionalization because it will not suit their own interests but those of the nation, or which simply do not want the transfer of the power to be made as orderly and civilized as it should be.

This ranges from the apparently innocent field of rumors and stories to the not so innocent field of violence, whether verbal, written or through actions. Rumors and stories affect the activities of the government and of the nation and many times the stability of government officials, since they normally pursue this purpose.

The government has adopted as a policy not to make frequent and persistent denials of rumors and stories because this erodes the essence of every day life. The government prefers that the development of events prove the veracity of these apparently innocent disturbing mechanisms.

As for the stability of government officials, in the year-end speech that I delivered during the last cabinet meeting of 1982, I expressed to the cabinet my strong desire to end my term of office and to hand over the power to the elected authorities assisted by that same cabinet.

I strongly wish this because I feel that I am being assisted by a highly coherent and efficient cabinet made up of qualified and, above all, of loyal men in whom I have placed all my confidence.

There are, of course, disagreements within this cabinet and this should be considered completely normal because these disagreements have been instrumental in reaching the best possible solutions to extremely difficult situations, as the national government has always conceded. We welcome disagreements. We had disagreements, we have them and will continue to have them in the national cabinet. Yet the people can rest assured that this will in no way affect the government. Instead, it strengthens the government and will in no way disrupt the institutionalization process we are undertaking. Rather, it strengthens the process. I want to reiterate here the desire I expressed at the last cabinet meeting held last year.

Regarding the other factor, that is, the use of violence both in words and actions, the government will use all its power to prevent those advocates of violence from achieving their goals.

No one should be allowed to achieve his goal through violence as we already experienced in our country in the past in circumstances we all want to forget.

I want to make the last announcement and thus end the ideas I wanted to convey to the people tonight by announcing that this week, as is publicly known, I will be leaving the country for a few days to travel to New Delhi, Republic of India, to preside over the Argentine delegation to the nonaligned summit conference. There, I will personally state the Argentine opinion and position on those problems afflicting the world today and which may be discussed at that meeting of nonaligned countries, of which we are a member, and where we will express our strong voice of protest of and will demand an end to an usurpation of our sovereignty which has been hurting us for 150 years, which is that of the Malvinas, Georgias and South Sandwich Islands.

As I am going away for a few days, I should not want to leave without reiterating again an exhortation I made earlier in this message.

Let us walk the rest of the road that still lies ahead all for all, never all against all, because although it might seem a play on words, all against all will only be damaging to all, and all for all will be beneficial to the fatherland, the nation, the republic and ultimately, all.

Argentines, foreigners of good will residing on Argentine soil: Good night.

Political Leaders Respond

PY012131 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1250 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (DYN) -- Leaders of most political parties termed "positive" the message in which President Reynaldo Bignone announced the dates for the elections and for the transfer of power for 30 October and 30 January, respectively.

Only Deolindo Bittel, the top Justicialist leader, expressed disagreement with the date set for the power transfer and noted that there was "no constitutional basis" for the delay between the time of the election and the time set for the transfer of power.

Carlos Contin, president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], believes that it will be possible to have "good lists of voters" by 30 October. He noted, however, that "the 3-month time lag between the election and the transfer of power seems too long and could be shortened."

Federal Party leader Francisco Manrique termed Bignone's message "convincing" and noted that "both the dates and the procedure established" are in keeping with the request made by his party.

Rogelio Frigerio, leader of the Integration and Development Movement, stated that "the formal announcement of dates for the election and the transfer of power is no doubt positive since it responds to a deep desire of the people who want the government turned over to the winners of the election."

Frigerio noted, however, that "one should not deceive himself here" because "regardless of the objectives of those in the government and even of some political leaders, either we take drastic, coherent measures to face the causes of the crisis right now -- even though they may have to be implemented in the long- or medium-term under the constitutional government -- or we will find growing obstacles on our way to a full democratic life."

For his part, Christian Democratic Party leader Carlos Auyero termed the official announcement "positive" but warned that "the Armed Forces cannot expect the people to thank them for their services."

"The people have had to go through a long period of hardships before succeeding in having the Armed Forces put an end to its painful passage through the government," Auyero said. He added that "although the established dates mean longer periods than those requested by my party, they can be considered acceptable."

For his part, UCR leader Raul Alfonsin said that the presidential message was "truly significant, truly important. A decision has been made, a date has been set to return to democracy and this is a major step forward. It believe the time lag established for transferring power after the election is too long. In my opinion, everything could be done in accordance with the Constitution in a 45-day period," Alfonsin said.

Alfonsin, who is the leader of the UCR's renovation and change movement, said: "All things considered, I am satisfied because we Argentines now have a specific date for this democratization process."

In reply to a question, Alfonsin, who is the presidential candidate for his UCR faction, said that in his opinion "there are no sound reasons to give credence to those reports attributing the long time lag between the election and the transfer of power to some military changes."

"Nothing like that could make much sense since the new government could make the appropriate corrections within the framework of democracy which, of course, requires that the Armed Forces be subordinated to political power," he said.

In response to another question, Alfonsin -- who comes from Chascomus -- said: "I am satisfied for the presidential message and for the fact that we now have dates. There was some skepticism, expecially outside the country and I believe everything will be calm now."

Alfonsin then noted that "this government is in no position to make the necessary corrections. Yet we have to keep pressing, not necessarily hoping to exact those corrections but at least to obtain some relief to social problems."

Angel Robledo, presidential candidate for the "Coordinating Group for Justicialist Action," [Coordinadora de Accion Justicialist"], said that "some policies, primarily those in the economic sector, must be corrected to ease rising social tensions which, if no urgently attended to, could become a major stumbling block to the institutionalization we are seeking."

Robledo, a former minister of interior, defense and foreign affairs, said that the presidential message "has contributed to clearing up the Argentine political scene since he has confirmed the military commitment to hold elections this year and the transfer of power to the winner of the election."

"I regard the president's announcements as positive. I believe they will contribute to an orderly, peaceful electoral campaign. He has also confirmed the government's commitment to maintain an impartial, legal position throughout the electoral process," Robledo said.

Robledo concluded his statement to DYN by stating that "under these circumstances one cannot raise major objections to the established dates, although it would have been preferrable to shorten the time lag for the transfer of power."

NEWS ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT TERMED 'BLATANT LIE'

PY012122 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1529 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (NA) -- President Reynaldo Bignone has been appointed to address the opening session of the nonaligned summit meeting in India on behalf of the Latin American bloc.

This report was confirmed to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS this morning by Gustavo Figueroa, chief of the Foreign Ministry cabinet, during a telephone conversation from Germany.

Figueroa also stated that the dispatch received in Buenos Aires regarding the nonaligned document in India "is a blatant lie." Figueroa stated that "the possibility of releasing a document in Frankfurt officially denying such a lie is being studied."

A report from the Spanish New Agency EFE, which was quoted by several Buenos Aires newspapers today, stated that the Malvinas issue would probably not be considered during the nonaligned summit meeting despite Argentina's intense campaign in this regard.

Figueroa also confirmed that "a working meeting with ambassadors accredited to some West European countries is being held in Frankfurt."

Argentina Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari has summoned the Argentine ambassadors to discuss some measures aimed at counteracting the pressure being applied by Great Britain on the nonaligned group in order to have the New Delhi meeting drop the discussion of the Malvinas issue.

The meeting being held in Frankfurt will also discuss Argentina's foreign debt and the campaign to solve the problem of Argentina's missing persons which has already begun to take shape in some European countries.

BIGNONE SEES NO POSSIBILITIES FOR PERON PARDON

PY011404 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] (DYN) -- President Reynaldo Bignone told conservative politicians Saturday that he has completely ruled out the possibility of granting a pardon to former president Maria Estela Martinez de Peron. According to Democratic Party leader Marcelo Gey, Bignone said, furthermore, that apart from the military junta's exclusion of Mrs Peron's participation in local political activities, she is also prohibited by law for life to hold political office.

The politicians suggested to Bignone that the "Beagle affair" should be left up to the next government. Gey said that Bignone responded by saying that the papal proposal will be accepted by the government "in general terms" because comparing it with the earlier arbitration "is not that unfavorable" for Argentina but the decision to accept it will be made 'ad referendum' by the next government."

BRIEFS

ROSARIO MAYOR RESIGNS -- Santa Fe, 21 Feb (NA) -- Rosario Mayor Alberto Natale submitted his resignation to Santa Fe Governor Roberto Casis this afternoon. Natale has resigned because he will engage in political activities. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2105 GMT 21 Feb 83 PY]

TAXATION AGREEMENT WITH ITALY -- Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (NA) -- The executive branch has approved an agreement between Argentina and Italy to prevent double taxation with regard to revenue and property taxes which was signed on 15 November 1979 in Rome. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2306 GMT 21 Feb 83 PY]

SYRIAN PURCHASE REQUESTS -- Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (NA) -- The Argentine-Arab Chamber of Commerce has reported that the Syrian Government has made offers through the Argentine Embassy in Syria for the purchase of the following goods from Argentina: 9,000 tons of soybean flour, and the chemical products choline chloride, dicalcium phosphate and bht antioxidant. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1303 GMT 24 Feb 83 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CARTAGENA DECLARATION

PY011516 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado has emphasized the solidarity expressed by the members of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, for renegotiating our country's foreign debt. During a press conference Velarde Dorado said that the meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia, supported Bolivia in its efforts to get credits. He termed Bolivian participation in the SELA meeting important. In this regard he said:

[Begin Velarde recording] The ministers of foreign relations [words indistinct] of the Latin American countries on the invitation of the president of the Republic of Colombia met in Cartagena, Colombia, on 25 and 26 February 1983.

In accordance with [words indistinct] approved by the SELA (?Latin American Council) it released the following declaration:

Whereas:

The efforts made by the Bolivian people to reinstitute their democratic institutions [words indistinct] could be jeopardized if Bolivia's serious financial problems, created by the international economic crisis and aggravated by its landlocked situation, are not overcome.

Keeping in mind the terms of decision no (?140) [words indistinct] approved during the regular meeting of the SELA (?Latin American Council) held from 16 to 25 August (?1982) in Caracas:

SELA commits its solidarity to the government of the Republic of Bolivia in its negotiations with the international organizations aimed at renegotiating its foreign debt under the most favorable conditions and offers the technical cooperation SELA countries may be able to offer, if asked, in preparing for the renegotiation. [end recording]

The foreign minister then reported that the UNCTAD assistant secretary general was invited to visit our country to observe the efforts of national experts in the economic field. Their studies will then be submitted to the meeting to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and to the Belgrade conference in Yugoslavia.

The minister then read the Cartagena declaration:

[Begin Velarde recording] It says: 1. During the Latin American coordinating meeting held before the sixth UNCTAD conference we expressed our gratitude for the decision made regarding the Bolivia's landlocked situation.

2. We recognize the generous solidarity of our Latin American and Caribbean brothers, countries which [words indistinct] have committed their support to the negotiations to be carried out by Bolivia with international organizations aimed at renegotiating the country's foreign debt under the most favorable conditions.

3. Bolivia greatly appreciates the technical cooperation in preparation for renegotiating its debt offered by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Bolivia decisively supports the historic initiative of Ecuadorean President Osvaldo Hurtado who made the wise decision to request that SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLA, (?carry out) a joint Latin American effort to deal with the international economic crisis. [end recording]

The foreign minister also said that the presence of the Bolivian finance minister in the United States can allow the renegotiation of the foreign debt to begin immediately.

[Begin Velarde recording] I believe that these recomendations (?can be made effective) immediately now that minister Elavio Machicado is talking about these problems with the U.S. Administration. We had to [words indistinct] Flavio Machicado in Lima. We talked about our negotiations in the United States. Machicado now has more knowledge and influence to negotiate with. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER ON DEBT ACCORD WITH ARGENTINA

PY261949 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Bolivia has managed to refinance its $660 million debt with Argentina over a 10-year period and a 3-year grace period with a fixed 8 percent interest rate. This information was disclosed by Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado, who arrived from Buenos Aires at 1900 yesterday.

The minister disclosed that he signed a memorandum of understanding with Argentine Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe and that the results of the mission he had been entrusted with by the government had been favorable for our country. He said he had found a desire to cooperate with Bolivia. He also pointed out that Argentina agreed to pay $240 million in connection with the purchase of Bolivian natural gas.

The memorandum which was signed also provides for the granting of a $50 million credit for the purchase of Argentine products and another for $20 million for the same purpose.

LABOR UNREST, STOPPAGES, STRIKES INCREASE

PY020040 Paris AFP in Spanish 2351 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 1 Mar (AFP) -- The ever-increasing labor and social unrest began to come to a head today in Bolivia through a 48-hour general stoppage being carried out by judicial branch employees and by a blockade of roads to be carried out by workers demanding better wages.

The doors of the courts remained closed today, the first day of the stoppage protesting the naming of two judges [vocales] whom the employees accuse of having been involved in the defense of ultrarightist members of the paramilitary groups.

On the other hand, the workers of the National Highway Service have announced that they will blockade roads if their 10,000 peso ($50 dollars at the official rate of exchange) salary demand is not met. They are demanding this sum as a compensatory bonus due to the increase in the cost of living.

On their part, public employees carried out a 24-hour strike today demanding their right to form a union.

Finally, the Civic Committee of Tarija has decided to postpone a strike until 4 March. It is demanding the financing for a hydroelectric plant.

Labor unrest is increasing on the eve of the implementation of another batch of economic measures that are intended to overcome the economic crisis.

FIGUEIREDO SPEAKS ON ECONOMY 28 FEBRUARY

PY010012 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Speech delivered to the nation by Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo from Brasilia on 28 February -- recorded]

[Text] Mr Ministers, in words I addressed to the nation during the beginning period of my government, I realistically depicted the worsening scenario of the difficulties in the economic and financial area about which I was most concerned. I then stressed some of the main aspects of the situation in which the unfolding of the international crisis caused by the first steep oil price increase placed us. At the same time I announced measures which were necessary to face that situation. Those measures did not deviate from the previous course. Others which became necessary in the face of new developments had different characteristics. Overall, the government's action was aimed at the following objectives; to pare down the public deficit, to balance the external accounts, to reduce the debts of public enterprises, to gradually eliminate subsidies, to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel, to stimulate agriculture and to promote the growth of the economy.

Forced by the international juncture, I announced a large devaluation of our currency. I stated the reasons for that measure. I outlined its scope and its effects which, in my opinion, would have been instrumental in generating the resources we needed to cover our deficit in current transactions.

Had the financial-economic situation not sustained major changes in its basic structure those measures adopted would have yielded the expected results, including that of bringing inflation under control.

Yet the international crisis, instead of slowing down, continued to get alarmingly worse worse for the most part due to further increases in the price of oil.

Awareness of the crisis, of its dramatic characteristics prompted developed countries to take individual actions to provide for their self-defense. Feeling that their economic structure was threatened by the worst crisis since the 1930 depression, developed countries adopted in 1981 and 1982 rigid policies designed to stabilize prices and to balance their balance of payments.

This policy yielded relative success but at the cost of economic stagnation, of widespread unemployment in developed countries themselves and of a subsequent reduction in international trade. There are currently nearly 30 million unemployed people in those countries and this figure may rise to 35 million by the end of this year.

The current crisis has affected not only Western countries. There is also widespread economic recession in socialist countries. Their requests to renegotiate their foreign debt are sound proof of this claim.

In seeking to balance their foreign accounts, developed countries adopted protectionist policies which provoked a sharp reduction in demands and brought stagnation on the international market. The rise of international interest rates to unprecedented levels added to this recessive situation.

The situation became truly dramatic for developing countries. First, they had to cope with the initial burden of the oil price increase and then with the drastic reduction of their exports.

All this had a heavy impact on our economy. Prices of our export products dropped markedly while those of imported products were rising. Interest rates on our international foreign loans increased. We had contracted these loans almost entirely since 1974 to reduce the impact of the international crisis and to carry on a development policy which would be capable of guaranteeing employment and well-being of all Brazilians.

A liquidity crisis, also a consequence of a collapsing international financial system, also added to our commercial difficulties.

The South Atlantic war, the pessimism which surrounded the Toronto meeting of the financial community, the default on their loan payments by both developing countries and major enterprises from developed countries have contributed to blocking the flow of loans to countries having deficits in their balance of payments.

As a member of the International Monetary Fund, we had to turn to it in the face of our financial problems. Backed by friendly nations, we are negotiating with the international banking system the flow of loans which would enable Brazil to overcome this serious, prolonged crisis.

Actions carried out to sound out the financial market revealed that loans eventually granted this year will be substantially less than the average of those granted in recent years. In the face of this situation, it was necessary for Brazil to mobilize to obtain a large surplus in its international trade to prevent our foreign accounts from collapsing.

To achieve this goal it was necessary to revise the monetary exchange rate. It is appropriate to note here the pattern of behavior followed in this respect by our trade partners. The United States was able to drastically reduce its domestic inflation. As the dollar became stronger, an accrued devaluation of nearly 29 percent in relation to the dollar was sustained by European and Japanese currencies from 1979 to December 1982. For instance, the French franc sustained a 40 percent devaluation, the German mark nearly 30 percent and the pound sterling 25 percent.

As a result of this, the competitiveness of countries like Brazil was weakened, because their exports to a large extent go to countries outside the area of the dollar. It should be noted that the socialist governments upon taking power in Spain and Sweden devaluated their currencies. This phenomenon, in conjunction with the increasing difficulties to export amid a deepening recession and a decline in the price of basic products, left developing countries, especially those of Latin America, with no alternative other than to follow the same process of devaluation of their currencies. Hispanic American countries, our most important trade partners among them, were forced to devaluate their currencies throughout the past year, down to cumulative rates of more than 60 percent. I would feel happy if I could announce that our currency, contrary to others, is immune to the worldwide recession. Nothing could be more pleasant for me than to be able to say that we have under control the problems which in the social and economic area affect other countries. However, the truth that must be told straightforwardly is that the crisis did not spare us; that the substantial devaluation of our currency was the inevitable path left open for us to recover competitiveness and to guarantee our position in the market.

What are the results we expect from the devaluation of our money? It is expected that it will bring in more cruzeiros for the export of our products making them more competitive and facilitating the expansion of our sales abroad. It makes imports more expensive, thus discouraging consumption and stimulating the substitution of imported goods by domestically manufactured goods.

It is true that the increased price of imported goods has an inflationary effect, which the government tries to neutralize through a policy whose success depends on the social responsibility and conscientiousness of businessmen. By stimulating exports, we will maintain or create employment for our workers, strengthen our industry and accumulate resources to meet our commitments. The devaluation is a strong measure and has broad consequences. For this reason, the government took care to supplement it with a number of measures aimed at reducing its undesirable effects. If on one hand, it discourages speculation in our currency; on the other hand, it badly affects some private and public enterprises which have debts in foreign currency. Nevertheless, the new exchange rate constitutes, as I already pointed out, a remarkable stimulus to the expansion of our foreign sales and the substitution of imports.

It is imperative not to relax our vigilance in order to prevent this devaluation from badly disturbing the national economy. No amount of strictness will be excessive in protecting society from this danger. The measures that should be implemented to avoid this danger are all important. In addition to the assistance that, as I said before, will be rendered to enterprises which have contracted debts in foreign currency, price controls were imposed on a large number of products, the Financial Operation Tax [IOF] was reduced in order to lower the price of imported goods, the decision was made that (?this is not yet the time) to readjust the prices of oil by-products and wheat, and efforts should be made to bring down domestic interest rates to more tolerable levels.

I have decided that all efforts should be directed at evenly spreading out the sacrifices which the situation calls for, that they should not be imposed on this or that group, although we must pay special attention to the needs of the weak. The rule that everyone must share public or social burdens equally should be interpreted in accordance to the postulates of justice, of social justice above all.

We should not feel guilty about the foreign loans we have contracted. They have been negotiated strictly in the best national interest and in keeping with prevailing objective guidelines on the international market.

The unexpected rise in interest rates to levels which are far beyond those established earlier has caught us and all debtor countries by surprise. The sharp, sudden decline in prices of primary products, whose export at fair and reasonable prices is one of the basis of our financial stability, was and continues to be out of our control and of that of countries which are seriously affected by it.

We are not responsible for the desperate protectionist policy adopted by powerful nations which are seeking to balance their foreign accounts by restricting imports of foreign products. Nor are we to blame for the fact that some countries, affected by the crisis, have failed to pay their debts to Brazil for their imports of our products. Failure to obtain large foreign loans largely contribute to worsening our difficulties.

In my speech at the UN Assembly, I warned the international community that the immediate adoption of a package of measures designed to overcome a crisis which was reaching alarming proportions was unpostponable. I said that only cooperation and joint effort among nations could create the conditions to bring the economy back to normal.

When I persist on stating that we are facing a world crisis I am not just trying to point out a fact which is known to everyone. I do want to emphasize that this is a crisis which is marked not only for being far-reaching but for its unprecedented aspects. I want to emphasize above all that to solve this crisis we cannot dispense with political decisions, in which the international community ought to participate to a larger or a smaller degree. It should be a political decision which might strengthen solidarity ties among nations, and which would make real, effective cooperation among peoples a major achievement of our times.

There are visible signs that we are already rapidly moving in this direction, signs which are already reflected in joint efforts which are being made to overcome current difficulties. Our overall responsibility over the fate of the economy does not preclude our special responsibility in the struggle for our economic, social and political advancement. I am worried about the international situation but I am far more worried about Brazilian affairs. I trust that the international community and all Brazilians will rise to the historical time we are experiencing. I trust that as usual, Brazilians will loftily respond to the challenge posed by this crisis in line with the dictates of their minds.

I harbor the hope that the crisis which has been shaking the world will soon come to an end. Judging from the signs which are already in sight, we may in fact soon return to the road of prosperity.

Yet prudence still dictates that we be prepared for a protraction of the current crisis. It would thus be necessary for all of us to mobilize both our human and material resources to seek to adjust to the new international situation, to expedite the modernization of all national sectors and all that is most urgent. Prompt actions required by the circumstances will have to be shared by all Brazilians who are aware of the situation and of our need to join efforts so that, under the government's leadership, we may secure our future. To this end, we must invest both in men and in productive activities which would generate jobs.

This long term objective requires a crusade, which will not be one of a temporary but of a permanent nature because it is our permanent duty to guarantee national tranquillity, order and happiness.

Mr Ministers, in your role as my direct assistants, you closely partake in the apprehensions brought about by the present situation. The cooperation and solidarity of the cabinet must prevail. With the loyalty, dedication, public spirit and patriotism which the government team discharges its high responsibilities I am certain that my government's plan will be successful in every aspect. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

FIGUEIREDO NAMES VIACAVA NEW CACEX DIRECTOR

PY010117 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] President Figueiredo today appointed Carlos Viacava, an economist, to the post of director of the Foreign Trade Department, Cacex. Mailson Ferreira da Nobrega, also an economist and former economic adviser to Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, was named new secretary general of the Finance Ministry replacing Viacava.

DAILY SCORES GOVERNMENT'S MAXIDEVALUATION

PY250240 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Feb 83 p 3

[From "The Notes and Information" page: "The Maxidevaluation and the 'Irresponsible People'"]

[Text] It is said that when Minister Antonio Delfim Netto learned a few weeks ago about the proposal made by Mario Henrique Simonsen for a maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro of from 30 percent to 40 percent -- a proposal approved by some industrialists -- he stated: "They are being irresponsible." This charge of irresponsibility could be interpreted in two ways: They were irresponsible either because they revealed what the government intended to do beforehand or because they did not consider the possible consequences of this decision. One wonders whether the government, by decreeing the maxidevaluation, is not running the risk of making another irresponsible move.

The time has long past when a devaluation represented a drastic step taken by a government because it meant admitting that the national currency -- the symbol of sovereignty -- had weakened, and that the nation had lost in the monetary struggle with other countries. Nowadays, we do not realize how serious a devaluation is; just as we no longer take notice of the problems inflation brings. However, this does not mean that a devaluation should not be accompanied by other measures in order to yield the expected results.

Everything indicates that the government, a few months ago, had not thought of a maxidevaluation and that it was even being honest when it strongly denied any intention of resorting to such a measure, going so far as to ask the head of the IMF delegation to help it convince the public that it would not resort to that extreme measure. It was a general consensus within the SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat] that the government would not again adopt a measure that in December 1979 had created "so many problems." We believe this makes matters even worse since it indicates that the measure was adopted under pressure and hastily, at a time when there were insurmountable problems regarding project No 4 now being negotiated with the foreign banks (to resume inter-banking operation for the benefit of Brazilian bank branches abroad).

If it is maintained that this project is really essential to obtain the estimated sums necessary to close accounts for the 1983 balance of payments, one wonders what help a maxidevaluation would be to solve the balance of payments problem. In the official communique the planning and finance ministers explained that "the measure is taken due to the unavoidable need to hastily adjust Brazil's balance of payments in view of the critical situation of the international markets, especially the liquidity crisis of the large financial centers." The idea is that the maxidevaluation will speed up the effects of the minidevaluation so that Brazil may be able to increase its exports and, as a consequence, reduce its dependency on the international financial market.

The objective of any devaluation is to reduce imports and increase exports. However, the consequences are not always automatic and a devaluation needs to be accompanied by a series of measures that will strengthen its effects. The government took all the necessary measures and was successful in reducing imports, especially if we take into account that the drop in imports did not affect the national economy. An increase in exports is a most delicate problem within the framework of a prospering world economy, and even more so in a world economy in crisis.

It would be naive to believe that a devaluation would be sufficient to increase exports. In the first place, one must make sure that the inflationary effects of a devaluation do not neutralize its positive effects immediately. This, in fact, is what Mario Henrique Simonsen clearly pointed out when he stated that if a maxidevaluation were implemented it would be necessary to prevent an overall indexation from neutralizing the effects of a maxidevaluation. This means that the effects of a maxidevaluation should not be fully reflected in the consumer price index (INPC) (such as an increase in transportation fares for example). However, it should be pointed out that this measure is implemented at a time when a new salary law already reduces the purchasing power of the people. We run the risk of worsening a socioeconomic crisis with a maxidevaluation. Incidentally, it is interesting to compare that decision with the IMF economists' document, which we published in yesterday's issue, to clearly see that the Brazilian Government had agreed to reduce the real buying power of salaries. In fact, a reduced level of consumption had been planned (consumption expenses will be lower in reference to the GDP [gross domestic product] which is in turn expected to decline by 3.5 percent...). Simultaneously we will have a heavier tax burden (increased real revenues by 3 percent). Everything leads one to believe that, to increase imports, unbearable sacrifices may yet be imposed on the people....

In the context of galloping inflation, could such sacrifices be really useful? To increase exports, competitive prices are not enough; customers, marketing networks, and quality products are necessary. We do not believe that these conditions are present. The country's potential great customers are in the same situation we are in and they are given the same IMF prescription to export more, to adopt a realistic exchange rate, and to import less. Only on paper can one imagine increasing Brazilian exports to those potential customers, and for this no maxidevaluation was necessary....

The argument is advanced that the maxidevaluation will at least have the advantage of bringing down internal interest rates. We believe this will be possible now, although not automatically as some would expect. This reduction could have come about without a maxidevaluation, at a higher direct cost perhaps, but a lower indirect cost certainly. What is cause for concern is the maxidevaluation's effects on the unfortunate enterprises that responded to the government's appeal to enter into foreign deals. Foreign interest rates are coming down; but the financing expenses abroad is going up dramatically with the maxidevaluation, precisely at the time when various enterprises facing the crisis can hardly bear the cost of foreign commitments. Professor Mario Enrique Simonsen had suggested that enterprises be helped to compensate for the maxidevaluation. Now the government refuses any assistance other than that given in 1979 (through the income tax...) which painfully helped us get through that period. The government seems to forget that times are different, and that the maxidevaluation has been adopted at a time when we are confronted with a serious recession for the third year in a row.

At no time can we believe that the maxidevaluation will yield positive results. For this reason we cannot conceal our doubt and apprehension in the face of a socioeconomic situation which, with the measure adopted -- in a climate of dispair -- could yet have serious political repercussions.

TALKS WITH POLAND ON DEBT REACH IMPASSE

PY251618 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 83 p 17

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- The negotiations between Brazil and Poland regarding Poland's $1.6 billion debt have reached an impasse, causing the representatives of the two countries to suspend the talks that are being held at Itamaraty in order to consult with their respective governments.

The Poles refuse to pay their debt in dollars and they insist on exporting a larger quantity of industrialized goods to Brazil, while the Brazilian delegation -- headed by the diplomat, Rubem Barbosa, a member of the East European Trade Commission (Coleste) -- insists on receiving part of the debt in cash.

The Poles want to sell an ice breaker and oil (which they bought from Libya and which is now stockpiled) to Brazil to pay a part of their debt.

The meetings will continue today and tomorrow at Itamaraty. According to a diplomatic source, a carefully worded note on the negotiations will be released tomorrow by Itamaraty.

LLOREDA CAICEDO LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED MEETING

PA261836 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1452 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Bogota, 26 Feb (EFE) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo left today, Saturday, for New Delhi to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting. At the meeting Lloreda will officially formalize Colombia's entry into the group.

The foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement will meet on 3 and 4 March, and 1 day later the summit meeting of chiefs of state will begin.

Discusses Current Issues

PA010018 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Colombian Government has spoken in favor of the creation of a Palestinian state, not only for political reasons but also for humanitarian reasons. Speaking on Cadena Radial Super's "Major Stories" program, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said: "...we realize that the Palestinians need a country of their own. I believe the call 'Arafat has been making for so many years has finally reached the conscience of most of the nations of the world, and the international community has the obligation to find a solution so the Palestinians can have their own country."

Lloreda Caicedo said that Colombia's joining the Nonaligned Movement responds to the demands of the times and does not represent a snobbish attitude by the current government.

Lloreda Caicedo said: "I believe that Colombia's decision to join the Nonaligned Movement was not the result of a whim or a quick decision but rather the culmination of a process."

The foreign minister answered questions on the advantages and disadvantages of Colombia's entrance into that group of third world nations, Colombian-Venezuelan relations, the significance of the UNCTAD meeting and the Middle East crisis. He also analyzed the Central American situation.

Here are excerpts of his remarks for the "Major Stories" program.

[Question] Those who criticize Colombia's entrance into the Nonaligned Movement allege that those nations can give neither political nor economic help to Colombia. What is the truth?

[Answer] I would say the opposite. The Nonaligned Movement is the one with the greatest influence on international politics. Its decisions frequently become the decisions of the United Nations, simply because this movement includes some 100 countries. In view of this, it has a broad majority over the bloc headed by the Soviet Union and the bloc headed by the United States.

Colombia's entrance is an opportunity to participate more directly in the formulation of nonaligned policies. As an observer, Colombia could exert very little influence on nonaligned policies. I think that membership is good for the country, as President Betancur has said.

[Question] It has been said that Colombia's membership in the Nonaligned Movement is aimed at consolidating national peace. Why should the guerrillas respond to Nicaragua's sitting beside Colombia and defending their point of view by abandoning their war actions?

[Answer] I don't think that all the violence in Colombia has external causes. Apparently there are many internal ingredients that contribute to the situation. However, there is no doubt that nonaligned membership could be a useful tool, at least for talking with countries that at any given moment could take that position. However, I repeat: This is not the main reason for joining. It could be an additional benefit of the decision we have made.

Deportation of Colombians

[Question] What is the Foreign Ministry doing to ease the deportation of Colombians from Venezuela? Father Dalpias, who is in charge of immigration in Cucuta, has complained that the Judicial Technical Police, PTJ, have mistreated and robbed Colombian deportees.

[Answer] Each time an abuse is committed a protest is lodged with the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry. We protest each time there is a border incident for which we consider the Venezuelan authorities responsible. Obviously, our complaints are sent through diplomatic channels.

Colombian-Venezuelan Conflict

[Question] What has the present government done regarding the freezing of talks with Venezuela to resolve the conflict over the submarine areas?

[Answer] ...we have decided that next year is the time to resume a process of negotiations with Venezuela, once the new Venezuelan Government is in power. The coming months will be a time to carefully think and analyze all the alternatives in this case.

It is worth making a last attempt at direct negotiations. If this process is not really successful, we should talk with the Venezuelan Government about other means or procedures that could be used to find a final solution to this issue.

Position Regarding the Middle East

[Question] Colombia has much prestige in Latin America. What is Colombia's position regarding the Middle East conflict and its possible solutions?

[Answer] ...it is natural that Colombia should have a relatively greater ability to influence developments in that zone, for obvious reasons. As I said before, we are neither a military, economic nor political power. Our country is respected at an international level, but has no way to make our positions decisive factors.... When Israel invaded Lebanon we publicly denounced Israel for the invasion.... We realize that the Palestinians need their own country. I think that the call made long ago by 'Arafat, has finally reached the conscience of most of the nations of the world. The international community has the obligation to find a solution so that the Palestinians can have their own country, and not be dispersed....

New formulas must be found so that Lebanon, for example, can attain total independence and so that its territory is not overrun in every direction by foreign troops, so that it can regain its ability to act.

STATE INSTITUTIONS ANALYZE AMNESTY LAW RESULTS

PA260457 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 5A

[By Dairo Martinez Madera]

[Excerpts] Cartagena -- State institutions have discovered that guerrilla leaders have ordered those who have accepted the government's amnesty law for achieving peace in the country to return to the guerrilla ranks because, according to their evaluation, the amnesty has failed.

The inoperativeness of the law is due primarily to the lack of economic resources with which to meet the requests of those who have accepted the amnesty on the basis of instructions they have received from the leaders of the organizations to which they belonged.

This has been established in a number of meetings that the institutions in charge of contributing solutions have held to investigate the reasons why the guerrillas have not taken advantage of the circumstances to return to legal life.

The Sounding

According to the official reports, in a test of the sincerity of the government's intentions, the guerrilla leaders ordered 20 percent of their members operating in the mountains to turn themselves in. This percentage would gradually increase in accordance with the benevolence of the programs that would be implemented to benefit those who accepted the amnesty. However, the results have been so negative that counterorders have been issued to return to the guerrilla ranks and to heed the instructions of their immediate superiors.

The state has not risen to the occasion, and while the Colombian president prays for peace, the Army encircles the guerrillas in different areas of the national territory and the clashes between them and the military troops continue, which, in the view of Leonor Uribe de Villegas [not further identified], "do not give hope for peace in the country soon."

As an example, it was reported that in southern Bolivar some guerrillas have received training from the SENA [National Apprenticeship Service] through the rural programs and they have confidence in the institution and its instructors, but in some cases they have had to withdraw because of the constant harassment by military forces.

Total Confusion

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January in the conference room of the Family Welfare Institute in Bogota have also been learned. The meeting was attended by representatives of several state institutions and Socorro Ramirez for the Peace Commission. During the meeting, the director of the Family Welfare Institute recounted her experience in Caqueta where she met with guerrillas and civilian and military authorities. She says she found 'confusion on the part of the authorities and even of the people who want to accept the amnesty because they are given unclear information."

Proposals

In the meeting, the conclusions of which had not been disclosed up to now, the participants decided "to submit to the wise consideration of the president the following recommendations:

1. To create a high level executive body with power of decision, budget capacity and the necessary infrastructure to centralize the efforts and actions of the various state institutions involved in this subject so that immediate actions can be undertaken and intermediate actions can be planned in accordance with the orders of the executive branch.

This body would coordinate actions with the private sector to obtain its participation in jobs that will contribute to the objective of peace.

2. In accordance with the terms of Law 35, it is recommended that budget transfers and allocations needed to adequately meet the basic needs of those who have accepted amnesty and of the regions affected by violence be made.

3. That the government issue complementary law to facilitate the amnesty law's effectiveness."

MILITARY MOUNTS OPERATION TO COUNTER FARC

PA260313 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p 8

[By Cristian Martinez Sarria]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Feb (CIEP) -- The Military High Commands were extremely worried over the subversive offensive that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, has begun including ambushes on army patrols in various parts of the country, especially in Caqueta Department. Meanwhile, FARC leaders Manuel Marulanda Velez, Arenas and Jaime Guaracas are holding peace talks.

Yesterday, the military chiefs attended the funeral of Capt Juan David Garavito Sanchez in Bogota. Defense Minister Gen Fernando Kandazabel Reyes; Gen Gustavo Matamoros d'Costa, Armed Forces joint chief of staff; Air Force Commander Gen Angel Maria Gomez Jauregui and National Police Chief Maj Gen Francisco Jose Naranjo Franco attended the funeral.

Maj Gen Bernardo Lema Henao, deputy commander of the Army General Staff, was absent because he had left for the zone of operations in Caqueta. He was accompanied by Army Inspector General Maj Gen Luis Alberto Andrade Anaya. The two went to coordinate the troops' actions in the zones where the subversive groups have appeared.

General Lema Henao was in command of the huge operation which is supported by Air Force helicopters and the Army's special forces trained in guerrilla warfare. The Army will use all its fighting power to stop the large offensive that the subversives have launched in every sector of the country, especially in the departments of Caqueta, Santander, Santander del Norte and Valle del Cauca. The subversives are attacking military patrols, occupying villages and causing a wave of crime and kidnappings in an unexpected outbreak of violence.

The Military High Commands categorically denied that the recent attacks on Army troops were carried out by bands of common criminals, as some members of the FARC High Command suggested during a meeting with Peace Commission President Otto Morales Benitez.

NOGUES, ACEVEDO VISIT BRAZIL 28 FEBRUARY

PY282258 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Feb 83 p 8

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues has travelled to Brazil in response to an invitation of the Parana State Federal University headquartered in Curitiba where he will be granted the "honoris causa" title.

Minister Nogues is accompanied by Foreign Minister Under Secretary Rodney Elpidio Acevedo and they are to return this coming Wednesday or Thursday.

According to information given to ULTIMA HORA the minister and under secretary will take advantage of their visit to Brazil to contact Paraguayan Government representatives posted in Brazil.

POLICE RELEASE VERON AFTER 6-MONTH ARREST

PY191921 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] Ruben Dario Veron was set free last night at 2015. According to explanations given at the time by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Miguel Angel Bestard, Veron and Lic. Mario M. Mergarejo were detained on 3 August 1982 accused of "instigating a number of events including the occupation of land which belonged to others, thus creating a state of unrest and tension."

Veron left the central police barracks at 2015 in the company of family members and went to his house in Las Mercedes neighborhood. Later he went to Fernando de la Mora to visit Melgarejo.

Veron has been under detention for 6 months. During the first few days he was held at the central police barracks and then he was taken to the third police precinct, where he had remained.

PARANA RIVER LEVEL HITS NEW RECORD HIGH

PY281440 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Feb 83 p 12

[By Carlos Civils]

[Text] Encarnacion -- The Parana River level hit the 5.97-m mark here, surpassing by 17 cm the record of the century registered in 1935. Meanwhile, the water level continues to rise.

Last Wednesday, after the level dropped to 5.64 m, there was hope that the situation of those families whose houses were flooded in the lower parts of Encarnacion would improve quickly. However, after the torrential 98-mm rain that fell on the area last Friday, the Parana River level reached 5.8 m, the mark that had been registered on 16 October 1935.

Comip [Parana River Joint Commission] personnel and Encarnacion ANNP [National Navigation and Ports Administration] technicians yesterday repaired the water level gauge, which sank. After the gauge was repaired, the new water level rise became evident.

Personnel from the Encarnacion naval base used a patrol boat to rescue some 25 persons from Isla del Medio, where they were isolated. Those rescued were taken to San Juan del Parana.

BELAUNDE URGES SUBVERSIVES TO LAY DOWN ARMS

PY281813 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The government will act fairly and openly if the subversives can be convinced to lay down their arms thus putting an end to a sorrowful situation, Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry said during his usual Sunday press conference. He recalled that before ordering the Armed Forces to help out in the antisubversive struggle, he had given the extremists 72 hours to lay down their arms and face the courts.

The president reaffirmed that the offer was genuine and generous and indicated that nothing is more painful for a ruler than to receive news about fellow countrymen, be they friends or foes, dying in internal conflicts, even when there is peace [word indistinct].

Extends, Expands State of Emergency

PY262137 Paris AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Lima, 26 Feb (AFP) -- According to a decree published in the official bulletin, the Peruvian Government of President Fernando Belaunde today extended for 60 days the state of emergency in eight Andean provinces affected by terrorism and included a ninth province under this measure.

Indicating that the state of emergency includes the suspension of constitutional guarantees, the decree says that the Armed Forces will continue to exercise the political and military control entrusted to them since 29 December 1982 when they were mobilzed against the Shining Path extremist organization.

In Ayacucho Department -- Where the violence is greater -- the state of emergency prevails in the provinces of Huanta, La Mar, Cangallo, Victor Fajardo and Huamanga where Ayacucho, capital of the department, is located.

The state of emergency was also extended in the provinces of Angaraes and Tayacaja, Huancevelica Department, and in the province of Andahuaylas, Apurimac Department. The state of emergency has now also been imposed in the province of Acobamba, Huancavelica Department.

In conclusion, the decree says that this measure was adopted because the acts of violence generated by terrorism continue and that the government has the responsibility to take the necessary measures aimed at establishing internal order to preserve the peace and security that this region requires for its normal development.

'FBT' SCORED FOR IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS

PY241425 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 13 Feb 83 p 15

[Luis Pasara editorial: "Don't Pay So Much Attention to Him"]

[Text] Every day we complain about our president. But we are also to blame. We reelected by a landslide a person we already knew; so no one can accuse him of taking us by surprise. We are also to blame since we keep hanging on his words. The news media actively contributes to this.

This takes place on Sundays, like today. Perhaps because we still harbor a glimmer of unfounded hope -- the glimmer we need to continue living -- we believe that maybe this time he will say something that makes sense. Perhaps it is because, by listening to him, we punish ourselves for being born Peruvians. But, whatever the reason, there we are, hanging on his every word. It is as if we do not know him and we are anxious to be enlightened by his words, which will hardly take place at this time.

He has proven this to us over and over again. FBT [Fernando Belaunde Terry] makes completely unfounded statements. The most notorious examples are his claim that there is international support for the guerrillas and his blunder regarding the alleged cooperation of the church with the Shining Path.

But that is not all. FBT makes irresponsible statements. The most dramatic example was his enthusiastic congratulations to the Huaychau peasants when the police reported that the peasants had lynched seven people who -- according to the report -- were Shining Path members. We saw the president himself, the declared democrat who respects the law, publicly fomenting chaos. It was an enormous blunder whose consequences became apparent a few days later, when eight newsmen were beaten to death under identical circumstances.

FBT's declarations only contain words of justification and support for government officials. No minister can make a mistake. No high-ranking public official has deserved a presidential reprimand or disavowal in 2 and 1/2 years. All the president's men enjoy his full confidence, whatever they do. The most recent and scandalous beneficiary of this is Minister Rincon who violated the Constitution, infringed upon the jurisdiction of the judicial branch and threw a habeas corpus plea into the wastepaper basket. And there he is, calmly sitting at his desk with the president's support.

Whenever a serious accusation is made, backed by solid proof, against a high official during the week, FBT will use his Sunday press conference to exonerate him. We can even tell word for word what the president's argument will be because the president always says more or less the same thing.

When the president takes up some topic of his own, it is either wholly uninteresting or he ends up making some unfortunate statement. This occurs, above all, in the economic field. In this area, with the important role of economics in the situation of the country -- something which brings questions to the fore -- the president's complete ignorance of economic affairs, shown in all his answers, works against him.

Manuel d'Ornellas, a commentator in whom no one would be able to find any spirit of opposition whatsoever, publicly suggested 2 weeks ago that the president keep quiet. It was, of course, said in more polite terms as a suggestion for his own good. However, D'Ornellas has very clearly maintained that the Sunday press conferences harm the image of the president.

My own concern comes from the discovery that the president's press conferences harm the country. I believe, in fact, that their dissemination over television, radio and through the press constributes to promoting terrorism and/or coups. As far as the president's image is concerned, the conferences are only a ridiculous show repeated weekly, but I have no doubt that the effects are literally politically inflammatory.

Since FBI has chosen to ignore the advice and announced last Sunday that he will continue his weekly meeting with the press, I wish to make a constructive proposal: that the news media seriously review the coverage they give to the president's press conferences and other statements. Why is it routinely assumed that the president's words are "news"? Why has it become a rule for the Sunday newscast to dedicate several minutes to the president's outrageous words for the day and for the dailies of the following day to give them a full page?

Although oblivion seems to have set in at the palace and it is evident that it is not possible to see from the Plaza de Armas our everyday realities, it is probably too much to ask that the presidency be declared vacant, as Deputy Mufarech did this week. But at least let those of us who have shown ourselves to be partners who deserve to be taken seriously in a dialogue try to get together and discuss our enormous problems. According to this criterion, if the president has nothing to say for the good of the country, we should not become accomplices by spreading what he says.

APRA'S GARCIA DECRIES SCHWALB POLICY SPEECH

PY231912 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 17 Feb 83 p 5

[Text] Deputy Alan Garcia Perez, secretary general of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] party said last night that since in his message Prime Minister Schwalb Lopez Aldana did not announce any changes in the AP [Popular Action] socioeconomic policy, APRA will have to radicalize its democratic opposition to the government.

He explained that APRA has chosen this path because Peru needs someone to defend its national interests and because it has the right to develop.

The APRA leader noted that his party is not satisfied with the prime minister's message because if we continue along that path, without changes in the present economic policy, the country will be following the path of "disaster, corruption and coups."

He also said that the message of the new prime minister is full of promises. Many offers are made based on an analysis as if the AP-PPC [Popular Christian Party] alliance had just assumed power.

Noting that it is surprising that precise information was given about what is going to be done regarding the billion-sol cut in the budget, the APRA representative said that "no indication is given about what is being planned to get us through this state of affairs."

After listening to the message, which he said had not been previously released, Alan Garcia said that the government's policy remains the same, that is, it continues to promote inflation and to be restrictive.

He noted that Schwalb had not said what is going to be done to pull the country out of hunger and misery, and he said that democracy means to be able to solve the problems of hunger, housing and unemployment and being able to achieve the well-being of the people.

The top ranking APRA leader, speaking with a deliberation that surpassed that of this participation during the interpellation of the Ulloa cabinet, referred to some issues raised by Prime Minister Schwalb Lopez Aldana regarding the principle of authority, something on which the prime minister put a lot of emphasis.

Garcia noted that for the past 2 years, no one has been telling the truth in the country because making a mistake in politics is the same as not telling the truth. Garcia added that there can be no principle of authority when the truth is not told.

He insisted that according to Schwalb's statement the government will continue with its policy of withdrawing subsidies, of continuing with a restrictive consumer policy and that no steps will be taken to deal with inflation, which is the main problem affecting a nation that is suffering from the scourge of hunger and misery.

Alan Garcia demanded that the government listen to his proposals aimed at increasing national production, protecting national industry and giving Peruvian workers the right to work, reorganizing the credit system, supporting the agricultural sector and reactivating production.

He said that the struggle against inflation should not be dealt with by cutting expenses but through an increase in production.

He noted the need for rescheduling foreign debt payments, a theory that is also shared by AP Secretary General Javier Alva.

Moreover, Garcia requested the promotion of an integrationist policy to reschedule the foreign debt payments of all Latin American countries and he noted that since several friendly countries have already expressed their support, he urged Peru to be the leader of regional position in this regard.

After criticizing the absence of the word planning from the prime minister's speech, Garcia noted the need for planning the development of the nation so as to achieve an effective decentralization through a bill which he announced will be submitted for approval by APRA for the benefit of all regions of the country.

He also called for a dynamic and aggressive foreign policy that will draw the Foreign Ministry out of its ostracism and force it to act in a more dynamic manner in international forums in defense of national interests.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR SOUGHT IN JOURNALISTS' MURDER

PY251335 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] It was only yesterday, approximately 30 days after the slaughter of eight journalists in Uchuraccay, that Judge [name indistinct] ordered the capture and arrest of Fortunato Gavilan, the deputy governor who, according to several witnesses, was one of the instigators of the slaughter.

It has been learned that the court order also includes (Atilio Chavez Soto) and a peasant named (Aronet).

All police and Civil Guard stations throughout the country have detailed description of the three wanted persons and they have also been ordered to apprehend them.

HERRERA CAMPINS' ADDRESS ON ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA011603 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2349 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Speech by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [broadcast in progress] ...would bring anarchy to the international market. I have always told you that we believe we must continue acting within the harmony and coherence of the other OPEC countries. We know that all of us would be negatively affected by a reduction in production, which during these months tended to stabilize at an overall production of approximately 17.5 million barrels. We know that even greater damage would be caused by a major, a large reduction in prices. A double reduction -- of production and prices -- would of course be doubly negative.

Likewise, the international financial markets present obstacles to the refinancing of short-term debts. In the specific case of Venezuela, some credit lines abroad have been closed. However, our country, which has resources and has a good reputation in the international financial world, is seeking to renegotiate rather than to refinance its short-term debt.

Our finance ministers have made several trips abroad in this regard. The present finance minister will soon travel abroad again to continue these negotiations which, I am sure, will end positively.

In recent days unscrupulous people without national spirit have tried to unleash in different sectors of the country a malignant campaign to discredit the national finance system, in order to worsen our liquidity problems and increase the anti-patriotic capital drain. Some states in Venezuela and some financial organizations in these states have suffered from this perverse campaign.

In view of this we alerted, are alerting and will continue to alert the people. This perverse campaign in Venezuela has provoked during the first 6 weeks of this year a decrease of more than $1.5 billion in the Central Bank's foreign exchange reserves.

Therefore, we could not continue with absolute freedom of exchange or a complete open door policy. This would have gravely endangered our foreign exchange reserves and rendered us unable to fulfill our external payments.

Under these circumstances, and taking into consideration the country's interests, the national reality and the measures that might be the best solution to the problem we are facing, the national government was compelled to intervene in the foreign exchange market, establish limitations and restrictions on the free exchange of our currency and adopt a series of complementary decisions to face this crisis.

Yesterday the government especially, the financial and economic sectors, met for almost the whole day to draft the complementary decrees. The meetings were held first at La Casona [presidential residence] in an informal manner. Afterward, they were moved to Miraflores Palace, for a meeting of the Council of Ministers. We established an Advisory Commission for Differential Exchange Rates [Regimen de Cambios Diferenciales -- Recadi], composed of the finance minister, who presides over it; the ministers of commerce and agriculture; the minister of state, who is chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning of the Presidency of the republic [as heard]; the president of the Venezuelan Central Bank; and the president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund.

Recadi will have a chief, and the office will function in the Finance Ministry. Its chief will at the same time be the secretary of the advisory Commission that I mentioned.

We have adopted a temporary measure of maintaining throughout the national territory for up to 60 calender days the price levels of goods and services, whether regulated or not, that were in effect on 18 February 1983.

These rules will also include the price levels of goods and services whose modifications were requested from the Development Ministry prior to 19 February 1983, which may be determined by a resolution from this office.

We have established very harsh fines for violators, for those who want to speculate in these difficult times. The fines will vary from 10,000 to 500,000 Bolivares, in addition to the possible temporary or permanemt closing of the industrial or commercial establishment. These penalties will be imposed by the Comsumer Protection Superindetendency [Superintendencia de Proteccion al Consumidor].

We issued a decree in which we explained the content and scope of the concept of public foreign debt -- the debt of the central administration, decentralized entities and government enterprises [words indistinct]; the private foreign debt represented by the quantity resulting from the identification of all assets and liabilities in foreign currency of national agencies regulated by the general banking law, other credit institutions and government and joint corporations regulated by the insurance and reinsurance companies law; the quantity resulting from the identification of all assets and libilities in foreign currency prior to 18 February of this year, derived from transactions with financial institutions carried out by the following government and joint enterprises: industrial enterprises, for the acquisition of capital goods to be used in the country; transportation and service enterprises, for the acquisition of equipment; and construction companies, but only as regards the debt resulting from fulfillment of contracts signed with the central administration, decentralized organizations and government enterprises or those guaranteed by public organizations or government banks for the construction of public housing. With this we want to say clearly that we are not favoring or granting any privileges or favors to the investments that we might call or describe with the adjective (maiamera)[not further identified].

We have also established a detailed register of debts [registro de los datos de las deudas], which is centralized in the Finance Ministry. Interested parties must request registration of their debts within 90 calendar days of the publication of the decree on which I am commenting. To this end, we began a very interesting effort yesterday to ensure that the forms would be ready, as they were in fact ready, this morning.

We also described the content and scope of the current expenses of the government branches abroad to import goods and services declared essential by the national executive branch -- initial lists are already being prepared by some government ministries, particularly by the Agriculture and Development Ministries -- and to pay the expenses of students abroad. We pointed out that these include remittances for tuition, books, and room and board for persons who are studying abroad in secondary or technical schools, universities schools of higher education, or taking postgraduate or special courses. We warned that if the studies are financed by scholarships or credits granted by public organizations or institutions, the remittances will be made at the preferential rate of exchange.

In the case of students not financed by these organizations, the executive branch will establish ceilings for monthly allotments at the preferential exchange rate. This is done so that the foreign exchange acquired for this purpose will truly service the purpose for which it is assigned.

Then we have rules for the verification and control of the real value as well as the content of imports in relation to the foreign exchange requested. This will be done by the Finance Ministry. The national executive branch, in assigning foreign exchange for importing of goods, whether considered to be essential or not, will act within three parameters. The first is due to the necessity to maintain a normal and appropriate rhythm in imports. The second is to fulfill the objectives of the differential exchange rate system that has been adopted. In the third place, it will be necessary to mantain an adequate reserve [existencia] of available foreign exchange.

The country can rest assured that the government is attentively following the course of the world economy and finances and, naturally, the course of our own.

Late in the week, and because of the need leaders have to keep their word, I traveled to Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire in the Netherland Antilles. I had been invited some time ago by the Netherlands Antilles authorities and had set this date for the trip. Of course, I knew that this area unquestionably would be affected by all measures that in one way or another affect our currency. This also applies to our sister country, Colombia. However, the importance of international relations and at the same time the objectivity with which we adopted the measures made it obligatory for me to go there to begin useful talks with neighbors with whom we wish to have, as we traditionally have had, the best and most cordial friendship. I was received in a truly extraordinary manner by the central and island authorities as well as by the people of those islands.

I know that back here news was published regarding the fact that certain establishments were handing out leaflets stating that they did not accept Bolivares but you also saw on television the signs in other establishments that stated that Bolivares were accepted with pleasure. This was during the days when our exchange market was closed, a fact that was undoubtedly affecting the flow of tourism to those islands, which is nourished to a great extent by Venezuelan sources.

I am hoping, with deep conviction, that this experience will be useful for the social and economic behavior of Venezuelans, and that having collectively experienced need will prove positive for our future as a people. Of course, we have to adapt to the new idea and mentality that the easy times are over; that now we have to work in the best possible way; that we have to pay more attention to the healthy virtue of saving that we, the Venezuelans, scorned during all those years of abundant oil wealth; that we have to sharpen our senses so that the investments we make will be truly profitable for the person, the family and the society.

That is why I make this call to my fellow countrymen and to all the presidents of the country, a call to accept this difficult situation with the spiritual and moral strength and fortitude typical of Venezuelans.

PRESIDENT ON EASING TRAVEL TO NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

PA260158 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] The newspaper LA PRENSA of Curacao carries an item by the Chamber of Commerce of Curacao saying that it will be suggested to Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins that Venezuelans be allowed to travel freely to the Netherlands Antilles with just an identification card. In other words, Venezuelans will not need a passport to visit any island of the Netherland Antilles. The Chamber of Commerce will also suggest to the Venezuelan president that ferry service be established between La Guaira and Curacao as well as between Maracaibo and Curacao.

Before boarding the plane at Maiquetia International Airport that would take him to the Netherlands Antilles, President Luis Herrera Campins told reporters that his government will listen to all proposals that could benefit the people.

OIL PRICE, PRODUCTION QUOTAS REPORTEDLY FAVORED

PA012021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Mexico has declared itself "in favor of an agreement with OPEC regarding prices and production quotas," Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani stated today in Paris in an interview granted to the leading French television network,

The Saudi minister also said that he was in favor of a reduction in the price of oil by $4.00 per barrel in relation to the current reference price.

SALINAS EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POSITION

FL020030 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The country is moving toward the goal of cutting the government deficit from 17 percent in 1982 to 8.5 percent this year, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, secretary of planning and budget, said today.

The secretary explained to a delegation of Wall Street economic analysts and representatives of City Bank in Mexico the immediate ten-point program of economic reorganization implemented by the administration of president Miguel de la Madrid.

He said the present administration is trying to hold this year's unemployment rate to 8 percent, the same as last year. Likewise, he said the government's 1983 budget (3 billion pesos -- about $20 billion) [figures as received] was established with a view toward more strict government action and under a plan for austerity, rationality and discipline.

DE LA MADRID SENDS LETTER TO COSTA RICA'S MONGE

FL011613 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1530 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado yesterday said that the complex situation of the Central American sister nations is not insoluble as long as there is a will to achieve peace among all countries in Central America.

In a special letter sent to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, De la Madrid described as important the fact that Mexico and Costa Rica agree in exploiting possibilities for peace in Central America through an initial meeting of foreign ministers from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

SEPULVEDA AMOR SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA

FL011255 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0211 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Foreign Secretariat has reported that Mexico and Nicaragua signed an agreement here today to coordinate bilateral relations in economic, scientific, technical, cultural and educational matters.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Nicaraguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz as well as officials of three secretariats, a state-owned enterprise and a Mexican official organization.

A press communique issued by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported that the document was signed at the beginning of a round of talks by four countries to evaluate bilateral cooperation between Mexico and Nicaragua over the past 3 years.

The press was denied access to this meeting and, according to an official communique, these talks were held within a framework of cooperation, friendship and solidarity which caracterizes the relations between the two countries.

The communique did not state if officials of the Secretariat of Energy, Mines and State-Run Industry and Pemex discussed the problems with international oil prices, since Nicaragua is a beneficiary of the San Jose Charter.

According to this charter, Mexico and Venezuela supply 50 percent of the oil requirements of Central America and the Caribbean with soft credits for up to 30 percent of the total oil bill.

EXPORTS TO ISRAEL EXPECTED TO INCREASE

FL012315 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2233 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Israel will make a considerable increase in its import of Mexican goods, Aliza Sehminsky, director general of the Mexico-Israel Chamber of Commerce, has said. She said Israel purchased $15 million worth of nonpetroleum Mexican goods and noted that there are goods available here which Israel now purchases in other parts of the world. She said Israel can now purchase these goods from Mexico.

BRIEFS

OIL EXPORT FACILITIES -- Pemex has reported that it has improved port handling facilities to increase oil exports. The Pajaritos export terminal is now working 24 hours a day. It can now export 1.4 million barrels a day. There are now seven berths that can handle eleven oil tankers. [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 Jan 83 PA]

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEMENTS -- The president yesterday appointed Pedro Ortega Herrera as director of the National Productivity Institute [Instituto Nacional de Productividad], Carlos Perez Garcia as director of the National Labor Institute [Instituto Nacional del Trabajo] and Luis Garza Villarreal as director of the National Fund for Development and Guarantee of Consumption by Workers [Fondo Nacional de Fomento y Garaniia Para el Consumo de los Trabajadores -- Fenacot]. [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Jan 83 p 5A, 29A PA]

SEVEN GENERALS TO RETIRE -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid on 27 January authorized the retirement of seven brigadier generals who have served continuously for more than 40 years. The generals are: Antonio Ramirez Barrera, at present a federal deputy; Arturo Corona Mendioroz, former Army University director; Jose D. Belmonte Aguirre, former commander of the Toluca Zone; Alberto Sanchez Lopez, former commander of the Jalisco Zone; Antonio Mardegain Simeon, a former military attache in France; Ricardo Aburto Valencia, former inspector general of the Army; and Hector Berthier Aguiluz, a pilot and former AIr Force commander. They will be decorated on 5 February at the old Popotla military school, where they all began their military studies. [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Jan 83 p 20A PA]

BELIZE

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH BRAZIL

FL020155 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] On the occasion of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belize and Brazil, the following joint communique was released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The Governments of Brazil and Belize, wishing to strengthen the bonds of friendship between their peoples, have on this date, 1 March 1983, agreed to establish normal diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level and to designate nonresident ambassadors. Both governments have expressed their confidence that this agreement will contribute to enhancing relations between the two countries and to ensure closer and mutually beneficial ties between them.

ROGERS TO HEAD DELEGATION TO NONALIGNED SUMMIT

FL020146 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime minister and minister of defense and home affairs, Mr C.L.B. Rogers, is heading the Belizean delegation to the seventh summit of the Nonaligned Movement which is being held in New Delhi, India. The delegation, which also includes the minister of health, housing and cooperatives, Mr Assad Shoman, will be joined later by Belize's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Robert Leslie.

EL SALVADOR

PEASANTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF AGRARIAN DECREE 207

PA012317 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Report by Raul Beltran who interviewed former Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte at a rally to request the extension of agrarian reform Decree No 207; in front of the Constituent Assembly building in San Salvador on 1 March -- live]

[Excerpts] Some 7,000 peasants have occupied the main plaza in front of the Constituent Assembly building in the Government Center. The peasants' occupation of this sector of the Constituent Assembly has been peaceful. They are demanding that the Constituent Assembly extend agrarian reform Decree No 207 that benefits sharecroppers.

By approximately 1130, some 5,000 peasants had gathered here. More farmers continued to arrive from various parts of the country. Former President Jose Napoleon Duarte was seen at the rally today at noon. He said that the peasants had invited him and that the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, had nothing to do with the rally. In order to give you the opinion of our former president, who is also one of the most important PDC leaders, we first asked him his opinion of this rally here at the Constituent Assembly by peasants whom the agrarian reform benefits:

[Begin recording] [Duarte] I think this is an instructive message for the assembly and the Salvadoran people, who should know that the Salvadoran peasant is aware that he needs land, since this is the only way he can survive. This demonstration is also instructive because it tells us that peasants are interested in defending their gains, and that it is unacceptable that some Salvadorans do not understand or want to understand that the right path is admitting that peasants have right to land, which is their only patrimony.

The victories achieved with the agrarian reform and decree No 207 are victories for the peasants; they are here to defend them. We -- and I am speaking for myself -- are here to accompany them in their struggle.

[Question] It is said in Constituent Assembly circles that by next Thursday, Decree No 207 will be derogated, because it will only have 26 votes: 24 from the PDC and 2 from the Democratic Action Party. It is said that this decree will therefore be derogated or abolished. What do you know about this?

[Answer] I don't know anything about this. Perhaps the deputies could give their opinion. However, I think this would be absurd; it would be dangerous for the country. This is exactly what the extreme left is waiting for. They are waiting for those who still do not understand the real problem in our country to fall into the imprudence of putting aside these social conquests that are vital for the Salvadoran people and for the peasants, who may become frustrated and join the guerrillas. Then, we would really be in serious trouble.

[Question] Would you say then, that if Decree No 207 is derogated, it could very well trigger an immediate and more serious explosion of violence?

[Answer] Can you imagine what would happen if these 5,000 men that are here today, that have come to ask for an extension of Decree No 207 become frustrated? Can you imagine the effect it would have in the minds of these humble but courageous men? It is dangerous. I would recommend that those who deal with this problem not take things too lightly. I recommend that they realize what freedom means for the people, what the process of preventing our country from falling into Marxist totalitarianism means. Surely, this has a price, and the price is what we have to do to give peasants, the workers and humble people, the opportunity to live with dignity. [end recording]

In conclusion, peasants will continue arriving from the interior. As we said they decided to stay in this section of the Constituent Assembly until Thursday, which means that they will be here for 3 days. Meanwhile, political parties are having emergency meetings to decide on their platforms. We can already report to you that at least the National Conciliation Party has emphatically said this morning that it will not ask for the extension of Decree No 207, and that it will therefore ask for the decree's derogation. The National Conciliation Party will then ask that the decree be revised.

Deputies of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, who will finally be the ones to decide whether or not the agrarian reform decree will be extended, are also meeting with their party's secretary general, Col Roberto Escobar Garcia.

PRESIDENT MAGANA SWEARS IN PEACE COMMISSION

PA011407 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Statement by President Alvaro Magana on occasion of the ceremony to swear in the Peace Commission, on 28 February at the Presidential House -- recorded]

[Text] As coordinator of the Political Commission, I wish to thank on behalf of the commission the members of the press for their presence at this continuation of the 28th working session of the Political Commission. On this occasion we will swear in the members of the Peace Commission appointed by the Political Commission according to agreement 325 issued by the executive branch on 24 February.

This agreement says: The executive branch of the Republic of El Salvador in exercise of its legal power, appoints the Peace Commission as established by Resolution 121 of the presidency of the republic, issued on 27 August 1982, published in Official Gazette No 167, Volume 276, of 10 September 1982, as follows: Francisco Quinonez Aguila, appointed by the Political Commission, will be the coordinator; Msgr Marco Rene Revelo; and Dr (Jose Guillermo Travanino).

The aforementioned persons should be sworn in by the president of the republic before they assume their duties. Issued at the Presidential House in San Salvador on 24 February 1983.

COMMANDER BLANDON REPORTS ON GUAZAPA OPERATION

PA020000 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Interview with Col Adolfo O. Blandon, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade in San Carlos distributed by the Armed Forces Press Committee; date and place of interview not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] We are pleased to exchange views with Col Adolfo O. Blandon, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, known as the San Carlos Garrison. Colonel Blandon has been in charge of many army actions staged within the framework of the "Guazapa 10" operation. Colonel Blandon will now report on this operation, staged late last week, Colonel?

[Answer] Thank you very much. The operation was planned on the basis of information available to the Armed Forces General Staff and information that the brigade had obtained on its own. We also knew that several terrorist camps had been established in that area of Guazapa. These camps were a threat not only to the neighboring towns -- Suchitoto, Aguilares, Guazapa, [name indistinct] -- but also a latent threat to the capital city. We knew that many of the terrorist attacks staged here in the capital originate, or rather originated, in that strife-torn area of Guazapa. On the basis of this situation, the brigade command began planning the "Guazapa 10" operation. The goal was to locate, isolate and wipe out the subversive centers located in this area.

We began the operation, and for the first 3 days the subversives put up firm resistance, especially in the area of El Salitre and Los Lirios, in the east. They also put up resistance in the western area, in El Trapichon, El Trapichito, Los Almendros, El Zapote. El Zapote was one of the major goals of the first phase of this operation. One of the brigades seized the place after 3 days of operation.

The other important goal for the brigade operating in the east was the major terrorist camp known as Palo Grande. We also reached that objective in 3 days, after engaging in some heavy fighting between El Salitre and Palo Grande.

Once the main objective, Palo Grande, had been attained -- which the terrorists hastily abandoned due to our troops' pressure -- we found a large amount of medicines and many weapons, including heavy weaponry. We also found a complete shop for manufacturing explosives. We found three well-equipped clinics. Here I would like to say that the main clinic was run by a Mexican doctor.

Upon realizing that they were unable to fight our troops, the terrorists fled in three directions: some fled north toward Chalatenango; others escaped to the east toward Cabanas Department. Immediately afterward, we thoroughly checked all the destroyed camps. Let's see if I remember the names of all these camps: El Salitre, (Los Lirios), Palo Grande, El Zapote, Los Cedros, La Caja, Los Ranchos, (Tallo Verde).

These are the only ones I can remember right now, but there are more. Most of the terrorists fled toward Caserio Tenango, east of Suchitoto.

We then began the second phase, the phase of pursuit. The troops' morale was excellent. They wanted to go on with the operation until the terrorists were captured, so we did. We caught up with them in Caserio Tenango, where many important battles took place.

At this point, the terrorists were disorganized. Demoralized, they dispersed, leaving behind evidence that proved that they were fleeing in disorder. Pursuit continued in Cabanas Department.

Last night, we arrived south of Cinquera, where the terrorists were almost surrounded by our forces. They took many casualties, but several of them managed to escape through (Suchitlan) Lake toward San Luis del Carmen, in Cuscatlan Department. This was the force that acted in the east.

The brigade that continued the pursuit in the north also concluded the second phase very successfully. After this, we shifted the axis of our advance toward the west to completely clean up (Las Garcitas) and El Paisnal, until we managed to control several of the terrorist camps located. I should say previously located, in the area of Las Ventanas, in La Libertad Department. This is a general report on the "Guazapa 10" operation.

[Question] We will now make a slight change with regard to the subject of the Guazapa operation. We will ask Colonel Blandon if he knows anything about the foreign journalists who were last seen in the Guazapa area and who, as far as the public is concerned, have disappeared. Colonel, do you know anything about them?

[Answer] This morning, one of the units operating in the east, in Cabanas Department, rescued some soldiers after a skirmish. The soldiers had been held prisoner and they reported that four journalists are with the terrorist group. According to the soldiers, three of the journalists are there against their will. The soldiers said that they noted that the journalists were being held by force; that is, they were prisoners, while another was filming the action going on around him.

The soldiers also report that they saw a woman who appeared to be a journalist. She was not taking pictures, and the soldiers also noted that she was being detained by force.

These journalists are still with the terrorists and I have been informed that they crossed Lake Suchitlan and are probably in or near the town of San Luis del Carmen in Chalatenango Department. That is what I can tell you of the journalists' fate.

[Question] Thank you very much, Colonel. We are broadcasting an interview with Col Adolfo Blandon, who has been in charge of the "Guazapa 10" operation. He has told us about the efforts being carried out and the morale of the armed forces. Before closing we would like to let Colonel Blandon [1-minute break in transmission]

[Answer] The terrorists have not only been destroying, burning, raping, and attacking work centers and so forth in our territory, but have also brought in a large number of foreign terrorists. We have strong evidence that there were approximately 100 foreign terrorists in the group that was operating in the Guazapa area. Soldiers who have been held prisoner report that those individuals carry rucksacks with the legend IRA. Unless I am mistaken, those are the initials of the Irish Republican Army, the terrorists operating in Ireland.

EDITORIAL SEES LACK OF DETERMINATION TO END WAR

PA020235 San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 14-20 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Toward a Change Without Changes"]

[Excerpts] After a wave of political and military crisis which the government of national unity still has not been able to overcome, we are beginning to feel the symptoms of a new readjustment of political forces among the groups in power. This could even bring about a change among the top-level military as well as the progressive isolation of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, from the process. Apparently, Arena's political deterioration results from the lack of support of some sectors of big capital, which do not consider Arena an efficient instrument for defending their interests.

The Salvadoran Institutional Authentic Party, PAIS, has formally incorporated the nine deputies expelled from the National Conciliation Party, PCN. However, this still does not give PAIS a full identity, or make it official. Nevertheless, PAIS now has a potential role in the reshuffle of interests that is taking place.

Apparently, the process of political and military readjustment is again responding to U.S. demands to establish a strategic consensus among the political forces in power, which would include the continuation and apparent effort in carrying out the reforms, without altering the basic objective which is to annihilate the FMLN by increasing the war effort.

War on the battlefield continues with such intensity that government officials are again talking about total mobilization.

During the week the armed forces carried out another cleanup operation on the slopes of the Chinchontepec volcano (San Vicente) while various points in Cuscatlan, San Vincente, and Usulutan came under heavy bombing.

There have been fewer acts of sabotage this week: only a few attacks on the energy system in Santa Ana. San Miguel has not had a power failure for 24 days.

Preparations for the pope's visit have been stepped up, and so have the demonstrations of the various political forces who want to manipulate the visit for their own purposes. The foreign minister has denied that political amnesty is being proposed and the defense minister has rejected the truce requested by Monsignor Rivera y Damas for the period of the papal visit. The FMLN has not yet responded to the appeal.

Despite the generalized awareness of the immense cost of the civil war, with government forces being increasingly aware of the difficulty of winning, events demonstrate that there is a lack of political determination to end the war primarily because of the inflexibility of the present U.S. Government. As long as this determination does not exist, there will be reshuffling and adjustment, but no significant change. The war in El Salvador continues.

POPE NAMES ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS ARCHBISHOP

PA011322 Paris AFP in Spanish 1257 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Vatican City, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Pope John Paul II today designated Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas archbishop of San Salvador, a few hours before leaving on his tour of Central America.

Rivera y Damas, 60 years old, had been serving as the apostolic administrator of that diocese since the killing of Msgr Arnulfo Romero in 1980.

The new Salvadoran archbishop was also bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de Maria.

The pope will meet with Msgr Rivera y Damas in 5 days, when he arrives on Salvadoran soil to hold a mass at the San Salvador Cathedral, where Oscar Arnulfo Romero was killed while holding mass.

Appointment Called Reply to U.S.

PA011446 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1331 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Geneva, 1 Mar (EFE) -- According to Roberto Cuellar, director of the legal assistance office of the Salvadoran archbishopric, today's appointment of Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas as archbishop of San Salvador was an indirect response to the attitude of the United States.

"It is formidable. It is strong church support for the continued appeals for a peaceful solution to the conflict in El Salvador," Roberto Cuellar told EFE in Geneva.

"I also consider it an indirect response to yesterday's statement by the U.S. secretary of state," he added, referring to George Shultz' warning that the religious leaders of El Salvador want to negotiate with the guerrillas and "increase Soviet influence in El Salvador."

"This," Roberto Cuellar noted, "was a direct attack on Msgr Rivera y Damas, on the pastors of the episcopal conference, and also a direct reference to the pope, who had expressly stated the same thing in his August message to the bishops."

"Church media in El Salvador," he added, "have told me that the extreme right wing is creating a campaign of fear against the great welcome to be given the pope, saying that the same thing that happened during the massive funeral for Msgr Romero, when more than 40 persons were killed, could occur."

RIVERA Y DAMAS DEPLORES U.S. MILITARY AID

PA011752 Paris AFP in Spanish 1713 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Arturo Rivera y Damas, the new Salvadoran archbishop, today denounced the "resurgence" of violence in this country, "deplored" the announced increase of U.S. military aid and insisted on the need for a truce to greet Pope John Paul II this coming Sunday.

The appointment of Rivera y Damas, who had been designated apostolic administrator following the death of his predecessor, Oscar Romero, 3 years ago, was viewed by political and church circles as "a blow" to the conservative sectors of the church and the country.

"I will remain faithful to the Gospel," the prelate said today, "and everything we deem of permanent value in Monsignor Romero's administration must be preserved."

In the meantime, only the rebels have responded favorably to Rivera's call for truce, while the army noted that the Salvadoran war is a "dirty war" and that a truce cannot be achieved.

"We will try to give the assistance that the people of God demand, not to favor groups, but to fulfill our mission as pastors," the archbishop stressed. Rivera y Damas has been a staunch defender of human rights in El Salvador.

Rivera, 59 [as received], is member of a family of eight children, four men and four women, including a nun of the Santa Teresa Carmel Order, who currently serves in Costa Rica.

Regarding the pope's visit this coming Sunday, Rivera indicated that "it is viewed as a source of hope for the Salvadoran people, because it will unite us and invite us to a reconciliation and to build a more brotherly and more just society."

He warned that "he would not be pleased" if the massive concentration on Sunday is used for partisan purposes.

Rivera described John Paul II, who appointed him to his new post yesterday, as "the champion of justice, thoroughly versed in labor-management relations," because "he was once a worker."

Furthermore," he said, "the pope is well aware of the problems of the Salvadoran people and will try to strengthen us in our quest to find true paths of peace."

Regarding the current government of El Salvador, Rivera said that "it has demonstrated a slight deterioration, although there have been some positive signs amid that deterioration, such as allowing some worker-peasant groups to demand a strengthening of the reforms."

As for the latest statement by President Ronald Reagan demanding more military aid for El Salvador, Monsignor Rivera "deplored" it. Although Rivera y Damas is glad El Salvador is not alone in facing its problems, he said that "the increase of aid means that the war will be prolonged, and what the people want is peace." Rivera was ordained as a priest on 19 September 1953 and is the fifth archbishop of San Salvador, after Adolfo Perez Aguilar, Jose Alfonso Belloso, Luis Chavez Gonzales and Monsignor Romero.

MORE PRISONERS PLANNING TO JOIN HUNGER

PA010113 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The political prisoners' hunger strike continues. Five of them are in serious condition. This has been reported by the Salvadoran Catholic Church and relatives of political prisoners. Last Sunday they visited the Mariona Prison, 10 km north of San Salvador, and the Women's prison in Ilopango, 7 km east of the capital.

The relatives of political prisoners said that 200 political prisoners on the hunger strike which today in its 13th consecutive day. They added that five strikers are in very delicate health. The same sources said that the strikers are determined not to eat anything. Reports obtained this afternoon also indicate that other prisoners are planning to join the hunger strike only 7 days before the arrival of Pope John Paul II.

COMMANDER FIVES SCOPE OF RADIO VENCEREMOS SYSTEM

PA011842 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos is in our people's heart. Radio Venceremos is yet another instrument to achieve the people's victory. Radio Venceremos is the dictatorship's daily headache. For this reason, the dictatorship has centered its attention on Radio Venceremos in its most recent communiques.

In order to keep our entire people informed, and so that our people will be better informed about the Venceremos system, its scope and operation, here is Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona reading a complete report on the Radio Venceremos system, of which she is in charge.

[Begin Letona recording] A few days ago, following the operation staged by all of the dictatorship's elite forces in Morazan Department, we learned of two Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] communiques disseminated through the national communications media. These communiques disclosed as military intelligence information the names of several internationalist and local companeros who work the Radio Venceremos system. Apparently, Coprefa thus sought to prove the success of its military operation, the efficiency of its intelligence apparatus and its old argument that subversion is imported from abroad.

We want to respond at this point, so that our people will learn about the ridiculous things that an enemy that is being defeated in all areas -- including the field of information and propaganda -- is capable of doing. We are also interested in giving a response so that our own enemy will learn about the apparatus and structure of information and propaganda it is confronting, which does not even remotely resemble the inadequate information that they provided through Coprefa.

The Radio Venceremos system is a national and international network of information and propaganda. Its structures have developed around a central axis, which is Radio Venceremos. These structures include the international information command, the structure that daily collects Radio Venceremos' information, which it then distributes through a cable network to various international press media and countries. It feeds this information directly to the United States, Mexico, France, Germany, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. From these countries, the information is redistributed to other countries.

The magazine EL SALVADOR, the informative bulletin FREEDOM SIGNAL [SENAL DE LIBERTAD], and the newspaper COMBATIVE REARGUARD [RETAGUARDIA COMBATIVA] are organs of information and propaganda through which the graphic testimony and written documents on the development of the war in both the political and military areas have circulated in dozens of countries. These instruments have helped expand international solidarity. They have contributed to the political isolation of the dictatorship and have led to the organization of thousands of Salvadoran refugees in various countries.

(?EL SALVADOR) is published in several languages. These publications have also circulated locally on our war fronts and (?in the zones of) expansion of our organizational work. They have contributed to the agitation and to the growth of our militias and military forces. Their circulation was even extended to the army ranks and to the political forces represented in the government.

The work performed by the film and television sector covers a vast historical archive of filmed material for movies and television, which includes pictures from the days of the mass struggle and the large mobilizations in San Salvador. Among these, there is the large unity mobilization of 22 January 1982, Monsignor Romero's funeral, the massacres, the repression, the selective terror in the cities. There are pictures of the construction of our rearguard and of the military advance of our forces against those of the enemy. Among other material, during the most recent period we filmed the battle waged on the Torola-San Fernando road in June 1982, the fighting in Ciudad Barrios and the battle fought on the Chapeltique road, the battle of San Felipe on the Sociedad-Corinto road, the seizure of Berlin and many others that demonstrate the military defeat of the dictatorship's forces.

Using all these materials, we have produced several films: "Morazan I," "Morazan II," "The Decision to Win," and "Letter From Morazan." All these films have won numerous awards at various international film festivals and have had an impact on the international public, thus helping to strengthen the support and recognition we get from various governments and peoples.

In addition to these films, several others are currently being produced, many documentary films seeking to inform and denounce have been edited. These films have been shown in the towns that our forces have brought under their control in the wake of important battles, and right here, in Morazan Department, in all the guerrilla camps. They also play a role in the agitation, organization and growth of our forces.

The film "Letter From Morazan" has circulated among the army's ranks. [Salvadoran Defense Minister] General Garcia himself has a copy of it, and we are sure that although, due to his absence from the battlefield, he has never seen his forces defeated, at least on film he has already had the chance to see it.

The area of photographic documents [words indistinct] from the days of the mass struggle to this day. This material feeds our propaganda organs. Photographic exhibits have already been organized in Europe, Venezuela and Mexico, as well as on our war fronts and in the towns seized by our forces.

Radio Venceremos, our most powerful instrument of penetration, information and orientation for our entire people, our most powerful instrument of international dissemination, the means of communication most feared by the enemy, has a central transmission station, a shortwave repeater and a station that links up with our repeater on Guazapa hill. It also has a team to produce programs and to work on location, technical maintenance team, a complete file of all our programs from the day of our first broadcast on 10 January 1981 and its own security mechanism. Security and protection and provided by the presence of the heroic Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah brigade in Morazan.

In Guazapa, Radio Venceremos has an FM transmission station, a team that takes care of transmissions, a maintenance team and its own security mechanism. In addition to this, it has the support of a nationwide communications network that supplies it with information about our forces' military advances on all of the country's war fronts.

Several conclusions can be reached from the above information: The much-touted intelligence information released in the Coprefa communiques, which disclosed a few names of internationalist and Salvadoran companeros -- the latter, by the way, all hail from Morazan -- not only does not harm us, but is also ridiculous and proves the incapacity of the Army's military intelligence apparatus. Hundreds of companeros work in our information and propaganda structures. We could release a complete list with their names. We are not doing this, simply so as not to lengthen this program and because our people are not interested in the names, but rather in the effects of these instruments on the enemy.

[In reference to disclosing the names of Venceremos workers, the same service at 0230 GMT on 25 February carried a station announcement saying: "In view of the fact that the dictatorship's military intelligence services have released information on Radio Venceremos through Coprefa disclosing the names of the companeros who work in Radio Venceremos in communiques filled with mistakes and inaccuracies, next Sunday we will air a report on the Radio Venceremos system, providing the correct names of the companeros who work here, and informing our people about the entire scope of the Venceremos system of information and propaganda."]

Furthermore, one might also conclude that Radio Venceremos' [word indistinct] and the names that the enemy had in its hand -- which it shamelessly released as a great victory of all its special battalions concentrated in Morazan -- do not prove the effectiveness of its forces, but rather their lack of effectiveness, since Radio Venceremos transmitted uninterruptedly and everyone had a chance to follow the much-touted and defeated offensive. Our strategic advantage over the enemy in all areas was demonstrated. This advantage, we repeat, extends to the areas of information and propaganda. It has become clear that we are an emerging power, while the enemy is a decaying and collapsing power.

The enemy also sought to prove that subversion is imported into our country from abroad, and that foreign elements direct our propaganda. To this we can respond that the presence of internationalist companeros in our country merely proves the existence of a powerful movement of international solidarity with our people's struggle. Many internationalists of the most diverse nationalities would like to come over to fight at the front lines. However, so far we have only received a few interested in participating in our vast national structure of propaganda and information. It has been demonstrated that only U.S. imperialism and the dictatorships support the Salvadoran dictatorship against their own peoples' will. Garcia, the high command and Coprefa ought to be ashamed to argue that their information is evidence of an alleged foreign intervention. Nobody can yet understand why they broadcast the names of a few internationalist companeros through all the national communications media. As yet, nobody understands why so much importance is being accorded this information, or what the enemy fears so much, since if we speak in terms of a foreign aggression the only thing that can be mentioned is the inexhaustible U.S. military aid, the hundreds of bombs dropped on civilian populations, the maintenance of the death squad, the upholding of a criminal and repressive dictatorship that remains in power against our entire people's will and the hundreds of advisers from the United States, Venezuela, Argentina and other countries who plan the Army's operations and even show up at the war fronts and who, as part of their military strategy order the elimination of entire populations. In short, one can speak only of a dictatorship that is selling our national sovereignty to the will and interests of U.S. (?conservatism).

The dictatorship, however, seems to worry over a small group of internationalists who, alongside the FMLN, are wielding the weapon of propaganda. That concern can have only one explanation: The dictatorship fears the repudiation it has earned both domestically and internationally. On our part, we can only feel proud that we have contributed to this goal with our Radio Venceremos system. We must feel proud to have a powerful instrument capable of breaking the dictatorship's information cordon, of defeating the lies disseminated on four television channels and dozens of radio stations that organize national networks the minute the dictatorship orders it, to release the latest official communiques.

In conclusion, we need only (?add) that through the Radio Venceremos system we have become a veritable power because we are fighting with the weapon of truth. This truth tells our people that we are winning the war and that the dictatorship is being defeated. This truth, disseminated through Venceremos' radio waves, on film, videotape, pictures, magazines newspapers and (?posters), has become a powerful instrument of agitation, organization and [word indistinct] of the people's organized forces. In future, it will be the historic testimony of our struggle, of our history, of the dictatorship's defeat. That historic testimony of our struggle will be used to educate the future generations of free Salvadorans.

Revolution or death, we will win.

From the free territories of Morazan, 28 February 1983 [end recording]

LISBON'S EXPRESSO INTERVIEWS FMLN LEADER

PM251025 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 19 Feb 83 pp 12-13

[Carlos Gil report, including interview with Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) leader Venancio Salvatierra in Guazapa: "FMLN Leaders: 'We Have Always Advocated Peaceful Solution to Conflict'" -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Carlos Gil: What is the current military situation on this Guazapa front and, in general, throughout the country?

Venancio Salvatierra: I will begin with the latter. The war has progressed favorably for the FMLN. At the military level it is undeniable that the regime's army is incapable of defeating us.

For just over a year, not only has the guerrillas' armed action been to defend the fronts but the guerrillas have also been employing more vigorous armed action to harass the enemy, striking a great deal at his movements. This has given us greater experience in attacks on his bases -- a matter which is very important at the level of the war.

In the first stage we had to defend ourselves, but as progress is made, we attack small units and then larger units.

Another aspect to be emphasized at the military level is the degree of seizure of weapons from the enemy. We are no longer seizing solely light infantry weapons from him but also important heavy artillery weapons.

Weaponry

Carlos Gil: So it is the Salvadoran Army itself which is "supplying" you with military equipment...?

Venancio Salvatierra: Yes, it is on this that the guerrillas mainly depend, and this is very important. The U.S. imperialist enemy deems the logistic encirclement of our forces essential, and to achieve this has used the Army of Honduras and the Army of the Guatemalan regime, and constantly patrols our country's coasts.

Within the framework of the current FMLN campaign, "Heroes and Martyrs of October 1979/80," which was begun 10 October 1982, and which is continuing victoriously, we had already seized after something over 2 months about 700 U.S.-made weapons. This demonstrates, on the one hand, the FMLN's military capacity, and, on the other, the source on which we depend.

Carlos Gil: But is there also an external source?

Venancio Salvatierra: Of course there is. They are weapons which we ourselves bring in, purchased on the capitalist market, which the United States has been unable to prevent. However, our supply increasingly takes the form of seizures from the enemy.

This is very important because, according even to calculations made by U.S. personalities, the ratio between the guerrilla forces and the government forces is 1:10.

Carlos Gil: But has not the Salvadoran Army increased its strength over the last few years?

Venancio Salvatierra: Yes, but not at the rate which the course of the war requires of them.

U.S. Assistance

Carlos Gil: Reagan's request to congress for military reinforcement for El Salvador is dependent on the verification of progress made in the improvement of respect for human rights by the Salvadoran Government. If Congress does not accept that assistance, who will be able to do so and how? [sentence as published]

Venancio Salvatierra: The restrictions imposed by the U.S. Congress have not been very effective so far -- although Reagan states that he will justify the progress made in human rights in El Salvador -- because that is false and a new farce!

The Army needs a certain kind of more sophisticated weapons, and, above all, special training in the United States. The ineffectiveness of the enemy infantry and their need for specialized military personnel have already been proven in practice. The new U.S. loans will therefore be earmarked for technologizing the military forces and providing new equipment.

If that assistance ceased because of Congress' refusal, it is almost certain that the FMLN would easily defeat the Salvadoran Army. If that assistance had not existed, it would have already been defeated.

Dialogue

Carlos Gil: We have spoken solely about the military situation; that is, about the aspects of the civil war. But let us talk about peace, because it could be possible if the parties concerned heeded the proposal of dialogue made a few months ago by the FMLN to the El Salvador Government authorities. What is the current situation concerning this important issue?

Venancio Salvatierra: We have always been prepared for dialogue. We have never rejected a negotiated solution to the conflict, irrespective of our military advance, which existed when we last put forward the proposal.

It demonstrated that the proposed dialogue was not due to the fear of our being defeated militarily. We wish to avert an increasing destruction of the country, because when the war is over we will have to rebuild it. We also wish to spare property and the lives of the Salvadoran people.

Carlos Gil: Does the FMLN deem possible an acceptance of dialogue and a negotiated solution to the conflict?

Venancio Salvatierra: So far it is not clear that there can be a negotiated solution, but we have pointed out some steps in that direction. The political and social forces supporting a solution of this kind are increasing in number.

Carlos Gil: The church, for instance. It has played a very important role in El Salvador in the denunciation of the crimes and the poverty to which its people have been subject.

Venancio Salvatierra: Of course it is an important force, but there are also other sectors to be taken into account, such as the petty bourgeoisie, which dares not express itself publicly, but we know that it believes that the regime's army cannot win this war.

They know that it is we who are going to win it, and its continuation will bring about the breakdown of the economy and the bankruptcy of the small businessman. That is why a political solution suits them best.

They know exactly that the FMLN offers them a mixed economy program.

Carlos Gil: has the church played any mediatory role between the guerrillas and the government?

Venancio Salvatierra: We can state that an important sector of the church, headed by Monsignor Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, has already publicly expressed its interest in a political solution.

Our proposal of dialogue was conveyed to the Constituent Assembly, the defense minister and the government precisely through Monsignor Rivera y Damas.

We are not opposed to the discussion of our government program, in which we want to include all the forces which wish to do so, and that is the purport of our proposal of dialogue without any proconditions.

If the solution to the conflict is the outcome of negotiation, the system and the government which are set up will also be the outcome of that negotiation.

If victory comes through military means, then the conditions will be quite different....

External Repercussions

Carlos Gil: So the guerrilla warfare in El Salvador could serve as an example for the whole of Central America....

Venancio Salvatierra: All revolutionary experiences serve other peoples, but each people has its own characteristics, and the revolutionaries should choose in each process the positive points of their experience. We believe that this process will play a decisive role in Latin America in general.

Several aspects stand out; one of them is that it is a revolutionary process led by unity among the various leftwing forces -- a phenomenon which will be reflected throughout Latin America. There are others.

Many people believed that it was impossible to wage an irregular war in El Salvador, and yet we are demonstrating that it is possible and that there are no limits to armed struggle. We are creating a new experience in guerrilla warfare.

Carlos Gil: Why was it impossible?

Venancio Salvatierra: Because of the smallness of our territory and high density of population. It is virtually impossible to find a square kilometer where there is not at least one inhabited house.

"We Have Nothing Against the United States"

Carlos Gil: But even if the U.S. president changes, U.S. economic and strategic interests still remain. It has always been so, even under Kennedy... who does in fact threaten the Salvadoran people?

Venancio Salvatierra: Yes, U.S. interests are in fact the same for any leader, but not all approach the problems in the same way. For instance, Reagan places our problem in the framework of an East-West confrontation, but for us it is not so, because what concerns us is a change in our people's heinous social situation, and this is what Reagan should realize.

We have nothing against the U.S. Government or its interests, provided that they respect our independence. Moreover, we are interested in maintaining good relations with the United States if we attain power, in accordance with the principle of mutual respect and mutual interests.

Intervention by Honduras

Carlos Gil: Is there evidence of military intervention by Honduras on the side of the Salvadoran Army against the FMLN guerrillas?

Venancio Salvatierra: Yes. Joint operations have been conducted, especially, as I have already said, in Chalatenango and Morazan. The Salvadoran defense minister stated a few months ago that that cooperation would be possible in the future. We have no doubts about the Honduras Government's nonneutrality. The FMLN has already conveyed to that regime its readiness to engage in dialogue, but received a refusal.

Carlos Gil: The FMLN's official broadcasting station, Radio Venceremos, is still broadcasting daily, despite the sophisticated methods for detecting it. In short, it seems that the place where it is located is not secret and the Salvadoran Army knows it perfectly well. How is it possible that that voice is not silenced by force?

Venacio Salvatierra: That is possible because of the defense which we have in the area where it is located. There has already been an operation previously, whose main aim was its destruction. But they achieved nothing, precisely because of the effective defense. Radio Veneceremos is in an impregnable area, and it plays a decisive role.

Socialist International

Carlos Gil: Do the Salvadoran guerrillas receive international support solely from the socialist countries or also from others?

Venancio Salvatierra: Well, I will tell you, perhaps to your surprise, that our support lies within the capitalist camp. Which has been the political force which has struggled most for a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict? The Socialist International. It is not a matter of any organization of the socialist countries....

There are governments which have recognized us as a representative force of the people of El Salvador; they are Mexico, France and Venezuela. And some U.S. religious organizations have declared themselves in favor of our process.

Carlos Gil: In wars, those who take prisoners normally do not hand them over to the enemy without some quid pro quo, or they keep them to be of use to them later at the negotiating table. Here it is different....

Venancio Salvatierra: Yes, it is different. It has been the FMLN's policy to demonstrate to the world that we are respecters of international agreements, while the enemy does not take prisoners; he kills them.

We take prisoners and hand them over because we respect human life and international law. When we hand prisoners over to the International Red Cross, it may happen that they will fight against us again, it is true, but it is also true that they had the opportunity to see how people live among the guerrillas. They will tell their families and friends the truth about the guerrillas. And there are even instances of some who have joined the guerrillas, and we accept them.

Carlos Gil: Just over 2 years since the start of the people's war in El Salvador, the FMLN seems to be demonstrating that it is capable of defeating the government troops militarily. What is the capacity of your guerrilla armed forces?

Venancio Salvatierra: When the open confrontation began, we did not yet have an army, but now the military experience is enormous. It is necessary to point out the high morale of our armed forces.

On this Guazapa front, where we are now, there have been enemy incursions, and one of them lasted 20 days. We fought constantly under the Army's harassment, without the population being able to supply us with food. However, the operation was concluded with a tremendous defeat for the enemy. In this war there is another interesting phenomenon, which is the participation of different generations. There are people of 60 years of age in the organization, alongside young people who are already front commanders at the age of 20.

HONDURAS

WORKERS' GROUP CHARGES FARM 'MILITARIZATION'

PA010456 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0307 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] San Pedro Sula (Honduras) 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)

-- The Federation of Workers of Northern Honduras (FESITRANH), located in this northern city, today denounced the "militarization" of three banana farms.

According to FESITRANH, farms no. 36, 37, and 38 in the jurisdistion of the municipality of San Manuel in the northern department of Crotes, were occupied by army troops because of a workers strike.

The strike erupted several days ago, when the owners of the companies that package the bananas from those farms decided to implement a new system of operation.

NICARAGUA

DAILY DENOUNCES ENDERS STATEMENTS AS 'LIES'

PA280449 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Imperialist Tricks: Now They Say We Are 'Threatening' Them"]

[Text] From the empire's innermost circles, Thomas Enders, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, said in Washington on Monday that Nicaragua would have to suffer "the most serious consequences" if our country becomes "a threat to the United States."

Accustomed as we are to the cynical outbursts that Reagan and his main aides launch constantly against the Nicaraguan Revolution, we are not really surprised at their threats or at the tricks they drew up in trying to justify their aggressive policy. We must stress, however, that imperialism's campaign of lies and infamies against Nicaragua has been intensifying in the same proportion as its increase in military and financial aid to the former Somozist guardsmen and their allies in Central America. We can see the the Reagan government's verbal attacks have intensified in the past few weeks, concurrent with the increased attacks against our national territory by the armed units of the Somozist counterrevolution from Honduras.

All this fits within the stubborn attempt by the most reactionary U.S. sectors to destroy or at least destabilize our country's revolutionary process. Our country's only crime has been to uphold its autonomy and independence, inalienable rights that we achieved on 19 July 1979 at a cost of 50,000 lives.

Anyone with a little common sense can see that Mr Enders' declarations are not only irritating, they are foolish and can only be conceived under the Reagan administration's political arrogance and clumsiness.

For the past 3 years and 8 months the Nicaraguans have been constantly threatened by the greatest imperialist power on earth, which has even gone from threats to armed attacks with the direct aid in arms and money to the former Somozist guardsmen.

Besides, during almost the entire Nicaraguan revolutionary period, there have been imperialist destabilizing actions with their persistent boycotts and blockades against our imports and our applications for loans from international credit organizations.

However, Mr Enders, believing that there are still numskulls in our sub-continent, now wants to make us believe that a small and poor country like Nicaragua, militarily harassed and attacked, can at any moment become a "threat" to the United States, which is economically and militarily the greatest power on earth.

Not even an infant could believe such a lie, unless Mr Enders, with all his imperialist arrogance, can show us how it would be possible for doves to destroy rifles.

HAVANA ON HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKERS ASSEMBLY

PA282343 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Jesus Escandel, chief of the International Relations Department of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, said in Managua that, as a result of the U.S. Government ultrareactionary positions, international tension is becoming increasingly worse, especially in Central America.

In extending greetings from the Cuban working class to the Assembly of the Sandinist Workers Federation, CTS, Escandel pointed out that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has demonstrated his obsessive intention to attack the example of socialist Cuba, the firmly independent determination of Nicaragua and Grenada, the heroic struggle in which Salvadoran and Guatemalan patriots are engaged and the legitimate interests of all Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Cuban union leader finally said that today, more than ever, the heroic Nicaraguan people need the most effective support and solidarity to prevent the criminal imperialist attacks on Sandino's homeland.

The participants in the Assembly of the Sandinist Workers Federation -- which ended on Sunday -- agreed to publicly recognize the efforts of the FSLN National Directorate and the government junta to carry forward the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. It was also agreed that the Nicaraguan labor unions would express their solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle.

In another resolution, the CTS called for an ideological campaign to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Karl Marx's death. Such a campaign would be aimed at defending the ideas of the Marxist-Leninist classics.

In closing the assembly -- named heroes and martyrs of the working class who have died in the construction of socialism -- Lucio Jimenez, who was reelected CST secretary general, said that if Reagan imposes war on the Nicaraguan people, he will encounter solid resistance.

MALMIERCA COMMENTS ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT

PA020115 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Nonaligned Movement will hold its seventh summit meeting more united and loyal to its principles and fundamental objectives, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said. In comments to the magazine PRISMA LATINO AMERICANO, Malmierca assessed the work of the Nonaligned Movement since the last meeting in Havana. He stressed Cuba's efforts to maintain the unity of the nonaligned countries.

Malmierca praised the cooperation of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at-Tikriti and of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the preparations for the Nonaligned Movement's seventh summit meeting in New Delhi. The meeting was previously scheduled for last September in Baghdad.

Malmierca added that since the meeting in Havana, the nonaligned countries have enhanced their capacity to positively influence the solution of most urgent international problems despite the aggressiveness of imperialism and reactionary sectors.

Further on, Malmierca denounced U.S. maneuvers in South Africa, where it is trying to condition Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops station in Angola. He also said that there will be no solution to the Middle East crisis unless the PLO is recognized as the only legitimate representative of that Arab people and its right to be an independent state.

COMMENTARY ON L.A. COLLECTIVE SECURITY, U.S.

FL241833 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 24 Feb 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela from the staff of the "Revista de la Manana" program and journalist (Joaquin Riveric) from the newspaper GRANMA -- live]

[Text] [Fernandez Vilela] The recent visit by Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca to Argentina and his statement in favor of the need to create a new collective security system again brings up a subject which was discussed repeatedly after the Malvinas crisis. As we have said many times in this international commentary, the Malvinas crisis left a big gap between the United States and the rest of Latin America, which witnessed how the United States supported an extra-continental power to the detriment of Latin American countries, thus violating everything established by the collective security system that the United States created to defend its own interests.

This is very interesting [Riveric]; I think that Illueca's remarks, as well as other statements made, show this. The trips that certain U.S. officials have made to reduce these differences and to try to close this gap a little have not been enough. Such is the case of Reagan's trip when he received forceful and serious replies from Brazil and Colombia. There is also the case of Kirkpatrick's recent trip, which many countries viewed as a negative, interventionist action. These trips did not help and will not help in this attempt to close the gap.

[Riveric] Illueca's trip to Argentina has again, as you mentioned, brought up the issue of the general situation of Latin America and its confrontation and differences with the United States.

The joint communique issued at the end of Illueca's visit to Argentina stressed three key issues which are important to measure this Latin American consensus in regard to the U.S. position. One of these is the Malvinas issue: The condemnation of the British military and nuclear presence in the Malvinas, which Latin America has been voicing for some time. This has been clearly explained. The other most prominent issue is the Central American situation. Argentina and Panama agreed on the need to find a political and negotiated solution instead of a military solution as proposed by the United States.

The joint communique discusses the Malvinas and Central American issues, but in addition, Illueca decided to stress these issues further during his news conference shortly before leaving Buenos Aires to return to Panama.

Illueca said that there is a need to create a Latin American security system. In other words, a security system of all Latin American countries in order to defend themselves when facing dangerous situations such as the Malvinas crisis, when they found themselves totally isolated. With this suggestion, Illueca rejected the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty]. He said that the TIAR failed because it was rejected by its main member and the major power on the continent: the United States.

Everybody recalls that during the Malvinas crisis, the United States twice rejected the decisions made by the TIAR members as a whole. On two occasions it said that it would not abide by these decisions because only those who voted for the decisions had to abide by them.

But the United States has continued to give military aid to Israel. [as heard] The list of countries receiving U.S. military aid was published recently. The Central American countries topping this list are El Salvador and Honduras. These are places where the United States wants a military victory at any cost. They want a military victory over the FMLN and want to reinforce Honduras in order to prepare an aggression against Nicaragua, as is becoming increasingly evident.

[Fernandez Vilela] As we have previously discussed and you just explained more thoroughly, Latin America faces three options following the Malvinas crisis; first, to keep the present collective security system which is promoted, of course, by the most reactionary regimes led by the United States. Second, to create a new collective security system excluding the United States. This is being promoted by certain countries. And third -- the newest one; well, it isn't really the newest one because it has been suggested before but Illueca was very specific about it now -- to create a new system of collective security, but together with the creation of a new political organization.

Therefore, this means the elimination of the TIAR, but it also means the elimination of the political organization -- the OAS. The suggestion is either to keep the OAS, to have an OAS without the United States or to create a new mechanism. It is interesting to note that there have not been any solutions in the economic sphere. There is already a single economic system for Latin America which excludes the United States: The Latin American Economic System, the so-called SELA. However, this victory, which was obtained a few years ago, has not been extended to the political and military spheres precisely because of the U.S. opposition to it. But it wasn't until the Malvinas crisis that Latin America became aware of this.

[Riveric] You are right about this, but there is a point I must stress. Regarding the OAS, the need for a Latin American political system and for a security system to replace the TIAR has been proposed. However, when it comes to the OAS, the matter is different. Regarding the OAS, the Latin American governments have not truly proposed an organization to replace it.

It seems that nobody has made the decision to propose the replacement of the OAS. There has been talk of improving it and changing its charter. However, there has been talk of a need to have an organization like SELA at the political level.

[Fernandez Vilela] Without the United States.

[Riverio] Yes, without the United States.

[Fernandez Vilela] But regarding the OAS, there is something that makes these countries hesitate to suggest the dismantling of the OAS. Apparently, this seems to be too serious a matter for certain countries which don't want to choose this path.

[Riveric] There is another proposal: to keep the OAS for negotiations with the United States and to go on and create another organization. There have been several proposals, I said. Most countries are not inclined to eliminate the OAS, but some believe that it should be kept only to talk with the United States.

The problem of a security system and a Latin American political system to face the United States stems from the fact that the United States itself is further widening the gap with Latin America. The Reagan administration has been carrying out a diplomacy that is directly leading to widening this gap. Every U.S. action proves this: Kirkpatrick's trip and even now, when the Latin Americans continue supporting Argentina and saying that they are going to bring up the Malvinas case at the nonaligned meeting, a U.S. admiral just decorated a British sailor for his participation in the Malvinas war. There are many examples of this.

[Fernandez Vilela] We don't have much time, [Riveric], but now that you mention the Nonaligned meeting, I believe that for the first time Latin America will present a more common stand at the nonaligned meeting. I believe that the Malvinas issue has united most of the continent in regard to the just struggle of the Argentine people.

FOREIGN DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT SIGNED

FL020215 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] An important agreement for rescheduling Cuba's foreign debt payments, guaranteed by the governments of the countries granting it was signed in Paris today.

The agreement, which covers the payments due between September 1982 and December 1983, was signed by Raul Leon Torras, minister-president of the Cuban National Bank, and by representatives of the Governments of the FRG, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Japan the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland.

The document contains a clause which stipulates subsequent new negotiations for rescheduling payments due in 1984.

ICAP PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO 'ARAFAT

FL011547 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1443 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of the party Central Commitee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP], has sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat congratulating him on his election as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

I reiterate my highest consideration and esteem for the heroic struggle that the courageous Palestinian people are carrying out and the friendship and solidarity that our people feel for your cause, Rodriguez Cruz' message to 'Arafat added.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES VISITING DANISH NEWSMEN

FL011534 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with a group of Danish newsmen of the Denmark-Cuba Friendship Association visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples -- ICAP.

The group includes representatives of important Danish news services and is headed by [Sofi Gameltof], copresident of the Friendship Association and representative of the (HANSA VOLKATURIS) NEWS AGENCY.

During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, various aspects of Cuba-Denmark relations as well as our country's general position in international relations were discussed.

CIVIL DEFENSE REPORTS RAIN, WIND DAMAGE

FL281530 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] According to reports received last night by the civil defense's national general staff, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin and Granma were the provinces worst affected by rains and winds that began on Saturday.

In Holguin 1,377 houses were damaged and 202 totally destroyed. Approximately 70 caballerias of plaintains, 11 of beans and more than 200 of sugarcane were damaged. A total of 1,242 people were evacuated in that province.

In Granma, 153 houses were damaged, 3 shrimp boats sunk in [La Barcena] and another 8 damaged. A total of 928 people were evacuated.

In Santiago de Cuba, 44 houses were destroyed while approximately 900 were damaged. Strong winds knocked electric and telephone posts down in Granma as well as in Santiago, resulting the interruption of services.

Eight Lives Lost

FL012020 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Civil Defense's general staff reported today that eight people died in Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo and Granma provinces when they violated safety measures established due to the heavy rains.

Civil Defense reiterated that crossing flood swollen rivers, picking up or touching fallen cables and remaining near flooded areas is still prohibited.

Meanwhile, it was reported that more than 500,000 pesos had been lost as of yesterday in Santiago de Cuba Province's agricultural sector. Farm products enterprises in Palma Soriano, Contramaestre, Songo la Malla, [Segundo Frente] and Santiago de Cuba suffered the worst damage.

Many caballerias of vegetables and citrus fruits were flooded despite the quick and constant acitivity of workers who tried to drain the affected areas and rescue the produce.

In view of this situation, the agriculture ministry's provincial directorate and its agencies are adopting emergency measures to prevent greater damage.

EXILE ALLEGES TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

NC011854 Paris AFP in English 1844 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Geneva, March 1 (AFP) -- Exiled Cuban poet Armando Valladares today told the Human Rights Commission at the United Nations here that political prisoners in Cuba were "killed, mutilated, poisoned and humiliated."

Speaking in the name of the World Christian Democratic Union, Mr Valladares said that in 22 years spent in Cuban prisons, he had both suffered and witnessed "torture and inhuman treatment" of prisoners.

"Cuba's inhuman dictatorship," he said, "after a quarter of a century in power, can no longer blame immaturity for its crimes."

Mr Valladares was amnestied and allowed to leave Cuba last year after the French government intervened in his favor.

The Cuban delegate responded by calling Mr Valladares "an infamous Pharisee... who wants to use the (Human Rights) Commission as a springboard to launch an anti-Cuban campaign."

REGIONAL EXPORTERS URGED TO POOL RESOURCES

FL011755 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Mar 1, CANA -- Caribbean exporters have been urged to pool their resources and immediately explore world markets for trade open to them instead of sitting back and waiting until the global recession lifts.

The suggestion has come from St Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry George Mallet, who delivered the opening address last night at a one week regional training seminar here organised by the Barbados-based Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (Caricom) Secretariat.

The trade minister said the world economic situation had made the region acutely aware of the need to become more self reliant as a community. "We are so engrossed in our domestic troubles that we are unable to find the time to give adequate attention to the dire need to explore opportunities on the regional level and to coordinate our resources to compete on the world market," he told the businessmen.

"We dare not sit and wait to begin to explore, with some urgency the opportunities... we need to purposefully endeavour to win and secure markets in some of the European countries for non traditional exports," Mr Mallet said.

He said that there was a market available to the region as far back as at the time of the approval of the first Lome Convention, which set up a framework for trade aid and cooperation between the European Economic Community (EEC) and 60-odd African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

"I accept that there are problems even in those commodities in which we trade, and with countries comprising the European Community, but that is no reason why we should sit back," he added.

The Caribbean businessmen were also advised against awaiting approval of the trade and investment companies of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) by the U.S. Congress, before they begin to actively consider and pursue the potential avenues for trade in agricultural and industrial goods with the American mainland.

"We dare not sit and wait while opportunities that are available under the Canadian/-West Indian agreement in marketing and trade, we cannot wait for the current economic situation to subside before we look seriously at the possibilities for trade. The rational for the common market arrangement within Caricom is the promotion and progressive development of trade within the region," Mallet told the seminar.

The session, financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is designed to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean businessmen. The seminars are also designed to help them increase their exports and take greater advantage of facilities available to them under the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) and the Lome agreement.

Mallet said that individually and collectively, the islands must also seriously look beyond the Caricom markets, so as to provide the opportunities for job creation and increased earnings, if the needs and aspirations of the region are to be satisfied.

"There is a need therefore for a tremendous job to be done to accelerate the education and training of our people in the business community, in marketing intelligency and research, in packaging and production techniques, and to acquire the wide range of skills necessary to compete effectively in the regional and non-regional markets.

"These areas must be looked into urgently if we are to vigorously pursue the accelerated development of our export capabilities. This in my opinion can be justly achieved by prudent and joint efforts between the private sector and government," Mallet noted.

Resource personnel from CAIC, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caricom Secretariat, the Irish Export Board, the European Economic Community (EEC) and the commercial division of the United States Embassy in Barbados are assisting in the training course.

As a follow-up the CAIC's training department will run an investment promotion course for regional businessmen from March 14 to March 18 in Trinidad.

BAHAMAS

CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCES EXTERNAL RESERVES FIGURE

FL011931 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank's external reserves stood at $115.4 million at the end of 1982, which represents a balance of payments surplus on official reserves of $11.7 million, the bank's governor said last night. Mr Allen told the Chamber of Commerce that merchandise exports were higher by $45.4 million and oil imports registered a significant decline of $55.8 million.

The current account of the balance of payments improved by $55.1 million from the previous year's position. The deficit of $74.3 million posted in 1981 reduced to $19.2 million.

"In general, 1982 continued weak, but somewhat stronger than 1981. In the face of a world recession, touris performed extremely well. Quite obviously, there is sufficient depth in the in ustry to give it a great resilience," Mr Allen said.

Estimates of travel receipts show this figure as $670.1 million and travel payments registered a total of $104.3 million. Net travel receipts are, therefore, estimated at $565.8 for 1982, an increase of $17.9 million.

There was, on the other hand, a deterioration in the surplus on capital account of $68.8 million as that account posted a surplus of only $72.4 million compared to $141.2 million a year earlier.

The rate of inflation as measured by the retail price index posted a year-on-year increase in 1982 of only 4.56 per cent. The annualized rate of increase was 5.97 per cent. This reduction in the rate of price increases was across a broad category of goods and services, said Mr Allen.

The number of construction permits issued for new providence during the first nine months of 1982 increased by 19.1 per cent over the same period of 1981. Both residential and commerical permits registered increases, and the value of permits issued more than doubled.

Reflecting weak external demand and a glut in the world oil market, the manufacturing sector in Freeport indicated a slcakening in activity for 1982 and although final data for the year are not yet in, "it appears that manufacturing output fell."

"Encouraging signs are emerging in the United States and inflation seems to have been effectively checked for the time being," Mr Allen said. "Taken together, there are sufficient indications of an impending turnaround to make that outlook convincing," he said.

JAMAICA

SEAGA SEES ECONOMIC HARM FROM HIGH INTEREST RATES

FL261230 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Edward Seaga has said that the rate at which parallel-market dollars are being bought and sold is much too high and this has resulted in damage to internal production and to Caricom trade.

The prime minister backed up his statement with the fact that the banks are only able to sell 6 percent of the dollars they have purchased so far because of the high rate of exchange at which the purchases have been made. And although the bankers with whom he was meeting with yesterday were quick to indicate that the rates have been coming down during the past week, Prime Minister Seaga said the decline was not significant enough to make a difference to the perception of the public.

Mr Seaga, who is also the minister of finance, summarized that a downward trend in the rate should encourage an accelerated inflow of dollars from persons who were holding back in the expectation of continued increases in the rate, which he said was already at an artificially-high level.

FOREIGN MINISTER SIGNS LAW OF SEA RATIFICATION

FL011634 Bridgetown CANA in English 1550 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 1, CANA -- Jamaica has followed Fiji to become the second country to ratify the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention which will regulate the exploitation of the resources of the world oceans as a common heritage of mankind. The instruments of ratification were signed here yesterday by the Jamaica foreign minister, Hugh Shearer, and followed last week's endorsement of the convention by the island's Parliament.

So far 122 countries have signed the convention, but it will not come into force until one year after it has been ratified by at least 60 countries.

Jamaica will deposit the [words indistinct] with the secretary general of the U.N. before March 15 when a meeting of the Law of the Sea Preparatory Commission is to begin a meeting here, the Foreign Ministry said.

Preparatory commission is to draft regulations for the effective functioning of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the body that will oversee the convention. The ISA is to be sited in Jamaica and is to have its headquarters at a building opened recently in Kingston.

ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR NEW CARICOM EXCHANGE RATE

FL012230 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Proposals seeking to safeguard trading relationships between Jamaica and her Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners have been made to government by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association [JMA].

The proposals, which are calling for a new Caricom exchange rate to be introduced, for adjustments to the import quota regime and for expansion of the Caricom multi-lateral clearing facility by US$100 million, were outlined by JMA president, R. Anthony Williams, to the monthly directors meeting of the association yesterday. "The Caricom market is of utmost importance to us. In 1982 our exports to that region totalled US$82 million which represented a 43 per cent increase over 1981, Mr. Williams said in his monthly report.

"It is therefore vital that we ensure that the goods of other Caricom countries be allowed into our local market on a similiar basis as our goods entering their markets. We have therefore made the following proposals to government:

"That a new Caricom exchange rate be introduced (other than the Caricom parallel rate now in effect) to indicate the special relationship of our Caricom trade.

"That the import quota regime be adjusted to emphasize the special relationship to Caricom.

"That in order to facilitate an increase of regional trade, the JMA support the call for the expansion of the Caricom multi-lateral clearing facility by the addition of US$100 million.

"It is our view that Caricom should approach an international agency such as the World Bank and or any other for this amount," Mr Williams said.

MONTSERRAT

ELECTIONS RETURN JOHN OSBORNE'S PLM TO POWER

FL251100 Bridgetown CANA in English 0946 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Feb. 24, CANA -- John Osborne's Peoples Liberation Movement (PLM) was tonight returned to power in Montserrat with a reduced majority following general elections in this 39 square mile British Caribbean colony.

The PLM, which in the last pool in 1978 copped all the seats in the seven member legislative council, lost two this time out to the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) of former Chief Minister Austin Bramble.

The new Socialist United National Front [UNF] failed to make any significant showing.

In the biggest upset of the election, education minister in the last parliament Franklin Margetson lost his seat to Bramble by 27 votes.

For Osborne, who became chief minister for the first time in 1978, it was his fifth consecutive win in the north western constituency. He took the seat handsomely from the PDP's Clifford Ryan.

The Montserratian engineer, a former PDP member who broke with Bramble in 1973 and formed the PLM five years later, has been a sitting member of the legislature for 17 straight years.

Bramble who lost his seat in the 1978 poll is almost certain to become leader of the opposition.

The only new face in the new line-up is attorney David Brandt, who won the windward constituency for the PLM, defeating Bilton Bramble of the UNF and Thomas White of the PDP.

Neither party leader commented on the results of the election, called by Osborne 10 months before his five year term was to expire.

New Legislature To Be Sworn In

FL282230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Feb. 28, CANA -- Montserrat's new legislature will be sworn in on Thursday, a week after Chief Minister John Osborne's People's Liberation Movement (PLM) victory in a general election, according to a statement from Government House today.

Margaret Dyer will be the new minister of education, health and community services; replacing Franklin Margetson, who lost his seat to Austin Bramble, leader of the opposition Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) and a former chief minister of this British colony.

Benjamin Chalmers retains his communications and works portfolio and Noel Tuitt goes back to the ministry of agriculture, trade lands and housing.

David Brandt, a lawyer, will be the only new PLM face in the seven-seat legislature.

For the first time in five years the opposition chairs will be warmed: this time by Austin Bramble and Eustace Dyer of the PDP.

The PLM won all seven seats in the previous election. This time it took five.

ST KITTS & NEVIS

SIMMONDS BLAMED FOR SUGAR WORKERS' PROBLEMS

FL0111811 Bridgetown CANA in English 1654 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Basseterre, St Kitts-Nevis, Mar 1, CANA -- The St Kitts-Nevis opposition-linked LABOUR SPOKESMAN newspaper had said that the current industrial action by sugar workers here could cost the industry as much as 10 million dollars (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) this year.

In an editorial comment, the paper said the refusal to work by several hundred sugar workers irate over 1983 pay arrangements will have a considerable impact on the income and expenditure figures of the state-run national agricultural corporation and the St Kitts sugar manufacturing corporation.

When the 1983 harvest began early last month some workers represented by the opposition-controlled trades and labour union heeded a strike call over government's decision not to pay a traditional bonus known as "goatwater." The paper said the bonus would have cost government about one million dollars.

In addition, the newspaper said the government of Premier Dr Kennedy Simmonds reduced the workers end-of-crop bonus from two and a half percent to two percent and the "dull season" pay out from three percent to two percent.

"The cumulative effect of these actions is that the Simmonds government has taken away about 150 - 200 dollars in bonuses from each of the lowest paid workers and about 900 - 1,200 dollars in bonuses from each of the highest paid workers," the paper said.

"Why would any government wish to throw away 10 million dollars allegedly to save one million dollars? The answer is not difficult to find in the case of the Simmonds government. None of the members of the government has any personal interest in the sugar industry or any commitment to the sugar industry," the paper said.

"The LABOUR SPOKESMAN accused the Simmonds government of unlawfully robbing sugar workers of two million dollars in 1982. It said: "There are millions of dollars in the funds created out of the sugar export chest from which even three million dollars could have been taken to pay sugar workers their goatwater," a reasonable wage and reasonable bonuses in 1983."

PREMIER SIMMONDS LOOKS AT TERM, FUTURE PROSPECTS

FL012116 Bridgetown CANA in English 2046 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, March 1, CANA -- St Kitts-Nevis Premier, Dr Kennedy Simmonds, says his government is very active in industrial development and promotion in an effort to encourage overseas investors to this British-associated state. In a three-part interview with THE DEMOCRAT newspaper, (which supports the government), reviewing his first three years in office, Dr Simmonds said great emphasis has also been placed on providing the necessary infrastructure for investment in the country.

"We have published two very attractive brochures recently, aimed at telling potential overseas investors what are the benefits of investing in St Kitts and Nevis," he said.

Dr Simmonds added: "We also have a project development officer provided with assistance from USAID (United States Agency for International Development) who is assisting us in identifying potential investors and an industrial development specialist attached to the development bank here, who assists in the screening of investors and in providing investors with information and studies that are relevant to their types of investments."

The premier also referred to the development bank, which he noted had been upgraded and strengthened and which was now playing a significant role in the twin-island state's industrial development.

Dr Simmonds, who is expected to lead his country into independence from Britain in September, said his most difficult task since he came to power in the February 18, 1980 general elections, has been to curb his impatience with the practices of bureaucracy in the government structure and in dealing with international agencies.

"I have a concept of what it would like to do for this country and the direction I would like to see the country move in," he said. "Obviously, we do not have all the resources to do all the things we would like. We feel hamstrung and frustrated at times, when the normal government processes and the processes of dealing with international agencies appear to be delaying the process of development.

Dr Simmonds expressed confidence that despite the international recession, the country's economic tide could be turned around, given the natural resources of the land.

He added: "Then I think we have made significant strides in tourism, I don't think there is anyone who can doubt that. Even our detractors will have to accept and grant that we have made meaningful strides in tourism which will go a long way towards the betterment of our economic situation."

Dr Simmonds said he was "tremendously gratified" by the response of the sugar workers to the current economic crisis. He said the vast majority had shown a terrific amount of maturity and understanding of the position.

This was a reference to the fact that the majority of sugar workers defied a union call for industrial action at the start of the 1983 crop, over government's decision not to pay them a traditional special bonus called "goatwater."

"If we were to break it down, the turnout of sugar factory workers has been excellent," he said. "Apart from a small area in the northern section of the country, the turnout of sugar workers has been good to excellent and certainly I am extremely pleased. This week, for example, worker turnout has been outstanding and the indication is that it will continue." Government contends that the state-run industry cannot afford higher payouts.

ST VINCENT

PRIME MINISTER CATO RETURNS TO WORK

FL282318 Bridgetown CANA in English 2036 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 28, CANA -- St. Vincent and the Grenadine's prime minister, Milton Cato, has resumed duties after recovering from a minor surgical operation in Barbados three weeks ago. The nature of the operation has not been disclosed.

Signs Taiwan Aid Agreement

FL282320 Bridgetown CANA in English 2033 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 28, CANA -- St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Taiwan have signed a 1.2 million dollars (1 E.C. dollar: 37 cents U.S.) two-year aid agreement here.

The agreement will enable St. Vincent and the Grenadines to buy two fishing trawlers together with pipes and fittings from Taiwan.

Under the agreement Taiwan will finance the engineering and labour costs of a water project in Georgetown, St. Vincent's second largest town, 22 miles north-east of the capital, Kingstown.

Prime minister and minister of finance, Milton Cato, who signed the agreement on behalf of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said it demonstrated the strengthening of economic co-operation between his country and Taiwan.

Taiwan's non-resident ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Michael T.S. Tung, said Taiwan was willing to provide assistance to friendly developing countries.

Ambassador Tung also confirmed that Taiwan planned to establish an embassy in Kingstown later this year.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Taiwan established diplomatic relations at non-ambassadorial level last April.

NETHERLANDS 'HOSTILITY' TO CONCERN NONALIGNED

FL012110 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 1 Mar 83

[By Reudon Eversely]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo, Suriname, March 1, CANA -- Suriname said today it would raise the question of what it calls Holland's hostile attitude towards its revolutionary government and people at this month's non-aligned summit in India.

"We will present at the summit the case of Suriname and the attitude of the Dutch Government towards the Surinames people," Army commander, Lieutenant Colonel Daysi Bouterse said.

Bouterse, the leader of the February 1980 Suriname revolution, said he would head a 20-member delegation to New Delhi for the March 7-12 conference of leaders of the 97-nation grouping. He did not give the time of his planned departure for security reasons.

In a wide-ranging interview with the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY [CANA], the commander said the team would include former Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp, diplomats and senior government officials.

Relations between Holland and Suriname, a former Dutch colony in South America, have been strained since the Army seized power here three years ago.

Bouterse said court martial proceedings against four men arrested in late January in connection with another coup plot could start any day now.

"Investigations are closed and the case handed over to the judicial authorities," Bouterse told CANA. Asked what will be the fate of the accused if convicted, he replied: "It's not in my power to decide on that. It's for the court martial to decide."

The Army chief denied allegations that Cuban advisers were here and blamed the Western "imperialist" media of waging a dirty propaganda campaign against his government to smear Suriname in the eyes of the international community.

"They want to look at us in a certain way and they want to isolate us by making this kind of accusation. Our duty is to convince people that it is not true," he said.

The suriname leader said his country was in the process of breaking 300 years of isolation in the region brought about by Dutch colonialism and wanted to improve and strengthen its relations with neighboring countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

"We are of the opinion that we should direct ourselves more to the region and this is our change in foreign policy. The time that we focussed on Europe is long passed," he said.

Suriname has observer status within the 12-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) and has been trying to cement closer ties with Latin American countries, including Venezuela. Officials said the government intended to apply for full membership of Caricom in due course.

GOVERNMENT WANTS RELATIONS WITH NETHERLANDS

PA020103 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Ambassador (Henge Hoitegler), Suriname's delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission, believes that there are points of agreement for reestablishing relations between the Netherlands and Suriname.

The Suriname official made this statement during a speech to the commission in Geneva.

Speaking to the Netherlands news agency, ANP, the ambassador said that the new Suriname Government strongly wants to reestablish these relations. According to him, the first thing that should be done is to reestablish trust between the two countries so that there can be a direct dialogue.

Along this line, a Suriname delegation could possibly visit Netherlands. According to the ambassador, it is necessary for Suriname and the Netherlands to maintain relations in view of the historic and family ties existing between the two nations.

The Suriname official also told the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva that the Netherlands is not the country best suited for denouncing the recent events in Suriname. As a former colonial power, the Netherlands knows perfectly well the racial differences that exist in Suriname, he said.

According to the ambassador, if the military had not seized power 3 years ago, the various political parties, which represented the various racial groups, would have attacked each other sooner or later.

PANAMA

STATE DEPARTMENT CANCELS PAREDES VISIT

PA020350 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 83

[From the "On the Street With Lucho" program]

[Text] The Paredes visit to Washington has been cancelled by the U.S. State Department. The State Department summoned Ambassador Aquilino Boyd to explain why U.S. authorities were no longer interested in the visit of General Paredes, whose presidential aspirations have suffered a serious blow from the affair of the letter, thus putting him in a very difficult and delicate situation.

URUGUAY

POLICE CONFIRM WARRANT FOR FERREIRA'S ARREST

PY011730 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Montevideo police chief has confirmed that the police under his jurisdiction have again issued a warrent for the arrest of Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. Colonel Washington Varela, in a special interview with Radio El Espectador, said that the request for the arrest was made through the police Orders of the Day bulletin. The Interior Ministry also reported that Ferreira Aldunate is wanted for having helped subversive organizations, for violating the Constitution through conspiracy, for attacks on the moral authority of the Armed Forces and for acts which could expose the republic to the dangers of War or to suffering reprisals, crimes which are punished by the military penal code.